

Hafa Adai!

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POLL RESULTS

Do you support the proposal to put up pachinko parlors at the former La Fiesta Mall?

Yes-66

No-30

Sunday, July 12, 2009

PANDEMIC ALERT STATUS PHASE 6

As of July 10, 2009

Phase 1: Viruses circulating among animals have yet to cause infections in humans.

Phase 2: An animal influenza virus is causing infection in humans, and is considered a potential pandemic threat.

Phase 3: An animal or human-animal influenza virus has caused sporadic cases or small clusters of disease in people, but has not resulted in human-to-human transmission sufficient to sustain community-level outbreaks.

Phase 4: Verified human-to-human transmission of an animal or human-animal influenza virus able to cause "community-level outbreaks."

Phase 5: A strong signal that a pandemic is imminent and that the time to finalize the organization, communication, and implementation of planned mitigation measures is short.

Phase 6: The pandemic phase, is an indication that a global pandemic is underway.

For more information about the H1N1 flu, contact DPH at 236-8797, Monday to Friday, from 8am to 5pm, 234-8950 during after hours, e-mail cnmpheo@gmail.com, or visit www.cdc.gov/h1n1flu/.

Source: CNMI Department of Public Health, World Health Organization

INSIDE



'Potter' Stars

When the "Harry Potter" film series ends, its three stars will have inhabited J.K. Rowling's universe for half their lives.

LIFE & STYLE...Page 18



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GHLI posts \$18.3M deficit in FY08. PAGE 3
More students seek govt scholarship funds. PAGE 5

PSS delays school opening again

Fitial: No cover over money missing

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

When it came, we deposited it into the trust account from which we started paying tax refunds and rebates to the people since they are the rightful owners of that money.

—Gov. Benigno R. Fitial

No cover over tax money is missing as the funding is fully accounted for under the rebate trust account, according to Gov. Benigno R. Fitial.

In an interview with *Saipan Tribune* yesterday, Fitial said if lawmakers look into the trust account that was set up purposely for the tax refunds or rebates, they will see that the money they are inquiring about is fully accounted for under that account.

See FITIAL on Page 4



By MONETH G. DEPOSA
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REPORTER

The Public School System has decided to delay the regular opening of classes for the new school year from August to September, like what it did last year.

See PSS on Page 4

War: Is it getting more hellish, or less?

By PETER JAMES SPIELMANN
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—War is hell, it's long been said. But just how hellish it can

be is a more difficult question, judging from disputes among researchers at several highly respected international peace institutes. They cannot agree on whether

See WAR on Page 4

ON THE NET

- The PRIO study: <http://conference.cedat.be/sites/default/files/Lacina%20&%20Gleditsch%202006.pdf>
- Obermeyer's Harvard study: <http://www.bmjjournals.org/cgi/content/full/bmja137>
- Leitenberg's Cornell University Peace Studies paper: <http://www.cissm.um.edu/papers/files/deathswarsconflictsjune52006.pdf>
- The Human Security Project's report: <http://www.humansecuritybrief.org/>



AP

In this Jan. 26, 2008 file photo, U.S. Army Spc. Kris Hostetler, 21, from Nashville, Tenn., a medic with Alpha Company, 1st Battalion, 30th Infantry Regiment patrols in Arab Jabour during Operation Coliseum south of Baghdad, Iraq.

Large crowd turns up at Covenant rally

Ex-Gov. Babauta's campaign chief serves as main speaker



Gov. Benigno R. Fitial, right, and Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos wave to passersby during a roadside waving held by the Covenant Party on Sunday, as a prelude to a mid-term rally held at the Civic Center in Susupe. Behind them are hundreds of Covenant Party supporters. Covenant supporters estimate the crowd at yesterday's event as between 2,000 to 3,000.

FERDIE DELA TORRE

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
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REPORTER

served as the keynote speaker at a big mid-term rally of the Covenant Party yesterday at the Civic Center in Susupe.

Speaking in Chamorro, Deleon Guerrero urged people to support Gov. Benigno R. Fitial and his running mate, Lt.

Gov. Eloy Inos.

Deleon Guerrero said he has confidence in Fitial and Inos' team. Former representative Andrew Salas, who is a known Babauta supporter, was also seen

See CROWD on Page 4



Victim's Advocate services are available through Karidat

What is Family Violence?

It's the mistreatment of one family member by another.

Family violence includes:

Physical abuse

- Slapping, Hitting, Burning, etc.

Sexual abuse

- Rape, Incest

Emotional abuse

- Threats, Insults, Harassment

Neglect

- Poor Physical or Emotional Care

Family violence is a crime. It is a widespread problem in our society.

Some family members suffer from domestic violence and it hurts everyone involved. If this is happening in your family, you can get help by visiting Karidat Social Service or call our telephone #234-5248/234-6981 Monday through Friday from 8:00 am through 5:00 pm and after working hours call the Hotline at 234-5100. You can also visit the Karidat Social Services Office in Chalan Kanoa.

This project was supported by Grant Number 2007-VA-GX-0030 and 2008-VA-GX-0046 awarded to the CNMI Criminal Justice Planning Agency (CJPA) by the Victims of Crime Act Formula Grant Program, Office of the Justice Programs, U.S. Department of Justice, and sub-granted by the CJPA Supervisory Council.

Local

Kilili bill opens door for NMI Job Corps Center

WASHINGTON, D.C.—Rep.

Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan (Ind-MP) has introduced legislation that would make it possible for the Job Corps to establish a training center in the Northern Mariana Islands.

Sablan placed the bill in the hopper for new bills on Friday, as the House debated appropriations for military construction and veterans affairs in the coming fiscal year.

Sixteen Members of Congress co-sponsored Kilili's legislation, H.R. 3181.

"This is just another example of the many ways that the Northern Mariana Islands—and often the other insular areas—have been overlooked in national policy," said Sablan. "The Workforce Investment Act doesn't provide for Job Corps Centers in the islands. My bill fixes that mistake and should eventually bring new opportunities for our young people to learn a skill and find work here at home or anywhere they want to go."

Job Corps is a free education and training program, specifically designed for at-risk youth 16 to 24 years old. Once accepted in the program trainees learn a career, earn a high school diploma or GED, and build the skills necessary for finding and

keeping good jobs.

"There are 122 Job Corps Centers in the United States," Sablan explained. "But right now the closest one to the Northern Marianas is in Hawaii. That's a long way from home for a 16-year-old."

"I believe that with a Job Corps Center right here in the Northern Marianas—perhaps on Rota or Tinian—it would be much more likely that our young people would participate in this great program and would be set on a very productive life path."

"And a Job Corps Center in the Northern Marianas might also become a magnet for students from Guam and other parts of the Pacific, who would feel much more at home here than in Hawaii or in the US mainland," he said.

The bill has been referred to the House Committee on Education and Labor. Among the co-sponsors are the committee chairman, George Miller (D-CA), Dale Kildee (D-MI), chair of the Subcommittee on Early Childhood, Elementary and Secondary Education, and Lynn Woolsey (D-CA), chair of the Subcommittee on Workforce Protections. Sablan is a member of the Education and Labor Committee and both of

these subcommittees.

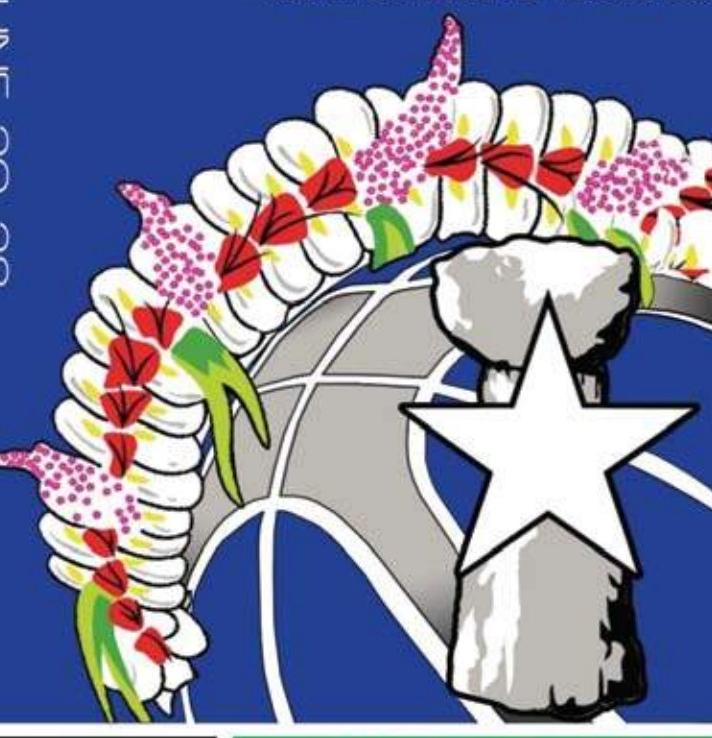
"I am very grateful for support of Mr. Miller, Mr. Kildee, and Ms. Woolsey. It gives me great hope that H.R. 3181 may move rapidly through the House. And I am also very appreciative of the other members who gave their support to my continuing efforts to bring learning opportunities of all kinds to the people of the Northern Marianas."

Job Corps employs a holistic career development training approach. Trainees are active participants in designing their own program of study. The Job Corps experience integrates academic and vocational studies together with practice in employability skills and social competencies. Students learn both in classrooms and in practical, hands-on work situations so that they are well-prepared for stable, long-term, high-paying jobs.

"I truly believe that we have to think about the long-term well-being of the Northern Marianas—30, 50 years down the road. Education has to be the key to a successful future for all of us. So I will keep looking for ways to use the Northern Marianas seat in Congress to create more educational opportunities for our people," Sablan said. (PR)

Saipan

Northern Mariana Islands



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GHLI posts \$18.3M deficit in FY08

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The Retirement Fund's Group Health and Life Insurance program posted an \$18.2 million deficit last fiscal year as a result of the privatization of the health plan, according to a report released last week by an independent auditing firm.

Compared to the \$17.2 million deficit posted in Fiscal Year 2007, last fiscal year's figure translates to a 6-percent increase.

Total liabilities in the past two years were at \$19.1 million and \$18 million respectively, compared to total assets

CUC sets power outages in Kagman 3 for repairs

The Commonwealth Utilities Corp.'s Power Division continues to perform systems maintenance on laterals in the Kagman 3 Feeder 4/7 circuit, resulting in power outages in parts of the island.

As announced on July 3, 2009, the maintenance project continued on Saturday, July 11, 2009, from 8:30am through 5:30pm and will be scheduled again on Saturday, July 18, 2009. The next stage of the project will be announced at a later date.

This maintenance project, a part of continued efforts to reinforce the island's power distribution system, includes the replacement of about 300 deteriorated pole top pins (pole hardware) throughout the Kagman 3 area.

"The deteriorated pins are of steel composite and were installed 12 years ago and have now exceeded their life span. Because of their age and exten-

sive exposure to the elements they require replacement to reinforce the circuit," CUC said.

Because of the consistent ocean salt spray in that area, the new replacement pins have fiberglass shafts and are expected to be more dependable under the conditions.

CUC said that all work to be performed on both dates will be isolated to laterals only.

"Please be reminded that the line crew will be working in many areas throughout the day and will only interrupt power to a certain street (within the feeder) to perform the necessary repairs and re-energize the street lateral when the area is complete," CUC said. "CUC apologizes for any inconvenience the power interruption may impose on the community and will continue to work diligently to minimize future interruptions." (CUC)

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claims due mostly to the Commonwealth Health Center," the report said.

It was disclosed that total unprocessed claims to the hospital as of 2008 was approximately at \$28.75 million.

The administration of the GHLI programs was transferred to the Retirement Fund in 1996. The law that mandated this also created the GHLI Trust Fund.

The objective of the trust fund is to ensure that CNMI government employees are provided with medical and life insurance benefits.

Aetna Global Benefits became the third party administrator of the trust fund in 2006 until the plan was privatized in 2007.

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WAR*From Page 1*

war is becoming more or less deadly—or even on how to count the dead.

These experts snipe at each other in academic journals and papers and are engaged in a statistical arms race of their own, sampling, adding and modifying databases to try to shed light on questions that have implications beyond the academic world. The disagreements begin with how fatalities are counted and then diverge more widely.

Authors from the International Peace Research Institute in Oslo, Norway (PRIO) in collaboration with Sweden's Uppsala University, say that since the collapse of the Soviet Union and end of East-West rivalry in 1989, civil wars, "though often intractable and devastating, have produced fewer battle deaths than their Cold War counterparts."

They relied on estimates by demographers, historians, and epidemiologists, supplemented by figures from the media, governments and non-governmental groups. Omitting "one-sided violence increases" such as the Rwanda genocide along with deaths from disease, hunger and "criminal and unorganized violence," PRIO arrived at a total of some 10 million battlefield deaths from 1946 to 2002 in conflicts where at least one warring party was a government.

Way too low, countered Harvard Medical School researcher Dr. Ziad Obermeyer, working with colleagues at the University of Washington and at the Gates Foundation-funded Institute for Health Metrics and Evaluation.

His group reconsidered the PRIO numbers in the light of World Health Survey sample interviews in 13 conflict-ridden countries where the U.N. asked families how many relatives they lost to war from 1955 to 2002. It found the true body count over a half-century was at least three times higher than PRIO's tally and concluded, "There is no evidence to support a recent decline in war deaths."

Their method, relying on memories of family members, allows for retrospective study of countries where cen-

sus and death records have been disrupted by war and researchers cannot safely go into the countryside, Obermeyer told the AP.

"Rather than uncritically taking data as they are reported from the field, we are actually using random samples of populations to look backward at how many relatives of respondents were killed, and then using standard statistical methods to extrapolate and get a number for the whole population," Obermeyer said.

But the death toll also can be counted in other ways that drive it astronomically higher.

Going beyond direct battlefield casualties and counting the victims of genocide, deliberate famines, death camps and other warlike actions raises the tally to 41 million people slain since the end of World War II, says Milton Leitenberg, a senior researcher at the University of Maryland's School for International and Security Studies.

Leitenberg extends his count of victims of war and conflict back to the dawn of the 20th century, producing an appalling total of 231 million.

He says his figures for mass casualties are the most widely accepted totals based on statistics by U.N. agencies and humanitarian and human rights groups. But he concedes such figures can be colored by politics and says the true tally might be 20 percent higher or lower than his total.

What Leitenberg rejects is using only government-reported or one-sided battle fatalities—which would omit more than 70 million deaths from executions, repression and starvation in Stalin's Soviet reign of terror and the politically engineered Ukraine famine, Hitler's genocidal campaign against the Jews, and Mao Zedong's "Great Leap Forward" in China from 1959 to '61.

"It's basically a flawed construct, which gives you perhaps 10 percent of the real total," Leitenberg told the AP. "Social scientists have a nasty habit of setting arbitrary criteria."

Obermeyer also complained that the PRIO methodology takes a limited view, excluding "deaths that are violent but occur when both sides don't have guns, that sort of one-sided violence."

noted a remarkable savings on utilities during the two-month period when students were out of schools.

For FY 2009, PSS has been allocated only \$35 million for personnel and operation.

Sablan said the decision will also help prepare the system by getting all the needed classroom teachers for nearly 11,000 children in all 20 public schools.

The schools closed the year with 510 teachers for all levels on three islands.

This summer, the commissioner said, they are busy working with the 3 Rs—recruiting, repairing, and renovating.

"All our schools are now being repaired and maintained. We're also taking advantage of this summer period to work on our recruitment and renovation efforts," Sablan said.

However, she emphasized that these work are minor repairs, involving only about \$10,000 for each school facility.

PSS stands to receive \$33.2 million in stimulus funds from the federal government next month. A big bulk of that will be used to restore teachers and school counselor positions and for major school rehabilitation.

It was then that PSS implemented strict energy conservation efforts, which proved successful, reducing utility cost to about \$3 million. The system

"I don't think it's reasonable to not include those kinds of deaths in counts of war deaths," he added.

Andrew Mack, a former U.N. planning expert and now director of the Human Security Report Project at Canada's Simon Fraser University, believes battle deaths and indirect civilian deaths are both on the decline, backing PRIO's thesis.

His project judges the total number of battle deaths from 1946 to 2007 to

His project judges the total number of battle deaths from 1946 to 2007 to be 10,095,152—to be precise—using PRIO figures from the period 1946-2001 and data commissioned from Uppsala University for 2002-2007.

be 10,095,152—to be precise—using PRIO figures from the period 1946-2001 and data commissioned from Uppsala University for 2002-2007.

Mack supports Leitenberg's idea of trying to count all deaths, but told the AP that "census data are often unreliable in poor countries and often very out of date. As for mortality surveys, there are extraordinarily few of these—and Milton (Leitenberg) doesn't cite them. So his totals are sometimes just battle-deaths and sometimes battle-deaths plus guesstimates of 'indirect' deaths."

How the deaths are counted can lead to wild differences in totals. The Bangladesh/East Pakistan war of 1971 provides a glimpse of how these four systems come up with disparate results:

■ PRIO/Uppsala tallied 58,000 soldiers and civilians killed in combat.

■ Obermeyer's Harvard/WHO survey calculated 269,000 "violent war deaths."

■ Leitenberg's Cornell paper cited 1 million civilians and 500,000 military killed.

■ Human Security Report counted 53,500 "battle-deaths on home soil."

stored and all will start work on Sept. 8, according to Sablan.

"With these funds, we're now able to restore the many important positions for all our schools starting in September," she said. "This will be the first time we're looking at almost a full capacity in our schools [because of the restored positions]."

With this anticipated full capacity, Sablan is optimistic that the system would eradicate the decade-old problem of overcrowding in schools.

Sablan also disclosed that over 100 teachers and staff are now attending various summer workshops and institutes to enhance and upgrade their capabilities.

"Majority of these institutes are related to the Board of Education policy on certification requirements.... and we're very happy that we have over 100 of our teachers and staff participating in those sessions," Sablan added.

The commissioner said the September opening is only scheduled for this coming school year and any decision to continue it in 2011 will depend on the consensus of school principals and other stakeholders.

There are 118 positions to be re-

Mack and other backers of the PRIO theory of decreasing war deaths criticize the Harvard study for opening its timeline with 1955. That skews the trend, they say.

Mack also contends that the 13 conflicts cited by Obermeyer and Harvard were "a small minority of war-affected countries over this period. It is not possible to draw any conclusions from global trends with such a small sample."

Nils Peter Gleditsch of PRIO, one of the authors of the "declining mortality" study, told the AP that Harvard's "time frame excludes the Korean War, not to speak of World Wars I and II. Including these wars makes the decline in battle deaths even clearer." It also cuts out the huge death toll in China's civil war between Communists and the Nationalists.

Obermeyer responded that "I wouldn't base any trends on a cataclysmic event, like 1945 and World War II." He said his study began with 1955 because there are too few survivors of earlier conflicts to build a statistically significant sample. His analysis ends with 2002 because that's when WHO conducted its surveys.

Mack says both battle deaths and indirect civilian casualties are shrinking because "their major drivers, the num-

ber and deadliness of wars, have both shrunk. Plus — and this is critical — humanitarian assistance per displaced person has increased fivefold since the end of the Cold War, and become more cost-effective."

Gleditsch's co-author, Stanford University doctoral candidate Bethany Ann Lacina, noted that "the overall decline in battle deaths is driven by the decreasing incidence of internationalized wars involving rich countries with super-modern forces — those are the wars that cause the huge spikes in the data," such as the Korean, Vietnam and Afghanistan-Soviet wars.

American involvement in the 1991 Gulf War, after 2001 in Afghanistan, and the current Iraq war "all were definitely more deadly than most other conflicts in the same period. But prior to 1989 there were even more internationalized civil wars going on, with even larger troop deployments, and even more years of fighting," she told AP.

In the end, each of these studies by international research institutes contains major caveats about potential built-in methodological biases and leaves wiggle room for elaborating on the figures in later studies.

"There's always going to be uncertainty," Obermeyer said.

to wave to passing motorists.

After an hour, food and drinks were served. At 1:30pm the program started. All candidates were introduced, then Deleon Guerrero spoke.

In an interview, Covenant Party chair Greg M. Camacho said this rally had double the number of people who showed up at the first rally they had in May, also at the Civic Center.

"They are very happy, they are very excited because right now most of the families, friends, relatives are here. The slate is complete now. We now have a full slate," Camacho said. "We have people from Rota and Tinian and all the delegates are here and all the candidates are joining us."

Camacho said the rally is a picnic-type gathering as they're not doing any campaigning other than to express appreciation to friends, families, and supporters.

After the Saipan rally, the party will be visiting Rota and Tinian for pocket meetings that are already ongoing, Camacho said.

Yesterday's event included a hotdog stand and a few games for the children. At least three musicians also offered lively entertainment.

CROWD*From Page 1*

at the rally.

Covenant supporters estimated the crowd as between 2,000 to 3,000.

"This is a very strong indication that the vast majority of people still believe in our administration," Fital told *Saipan Tribune*, pointing to the large crowd that showed up.

Although the CNMI is experiencing difficulties, Fital said that people know that he is sincere and is doing his best to do what is right "to keep the ship afloat."

"We will continue this objective and mission to revive the CNMI economy," he said.

The governor expressed confidence that their team has a very good chance in the November election.

"You can tell that from the outpouring of grassroots support and we will continue to entice more grassroots support," Fital said.

Supporters and Covenant candidates began arriving at the Civic Center at 9am. After an hour, Fital and Inos led the party's candidates and supporters in lining up the shoulder of Beach Road

has been saying all along that the \$17.2 million that the Department of Finance received from the U.S. Treasury as final settlement in the longstanding cover-over issue saved the government from a deficit in FY 2008.

When asked to comment, Fital said the \$17.2 million was the last disbursement from the Internal Revenue Service on cover over funds.

"But we had an executive session with the Legislature about this," Fital said.

Lt. Gov. Eloy Inos, when he was still the Finance Secretary, met with the Legislature for an executive meeting where the funding was discussed, Fital said.

"These are confidential information because it concerns taxpayers' identification. So those cannot be disclosed," he added.

Fital said the lawmakers might have forgotten about having been already advised by Inos as to where the money was deposited or placed.

FITAL

From Page 1

"When it [cover over money] came, we deposited it into the trust account from which we started paying tax refunds and rebates to the people since they are the rightful owners of that money," the governor said.

House Speaker Arnold I. Palacios and House Ways and Means Committee chair Rep. Ray Yumul on Friday disclosed that the CNMI government actually received \$41.6 million in cover over tax payments in Fiscal Year 2008, but the administration declared only \$17.2 million.

Yumul showed an audit report by Deloitte and Touche for the year ending Sept. 30, 2008, which showed that the government received \$41,611,260 in cover over funds.

Palacios said the issue needs some explanation as the Fital administration

More students seek govt scholarship funds

Over 800 submit scholarship applications

By MONETH G. DEPOSA
moneth_deposa@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

The economic instability and hardship being experienced by local families on island seem to be driving an increasing number of students to seek government assistance for their education.

The CNMI Scholarship Office said Friday it received over 800

applications for both the government's honor and educational assistance scholarship programs.

Every year, the Scholarship Office offers 15 slots for the honor scholarship program, which provides up to \$15,000 financial help for each student, provided they meet the requirements.

The deadline to apply for this scholarship was on June 30.

The Scholarship Office said it received and is now reviewing 25 applications.

Under the law, eight of the 15 available slots will be awarded to students on Saipan, two each for Rota and Tinian, and three for off-island students.

According to the statute, recipient of this scholarship award may receive the assistance for no

more than five academic years as long as they maintain the required cumulative GPA of 3.0 at the end of each school year. In case of dropouts and termination from school, the student is required to return the money to the government.

Meanwhile, under the Educational Assistance Program, the Scholarship Office received over 800 applications, each hoping to get the \$3,960 annual

financial aid.

EAP applicants included new, ongoing, and returning students.

An EAP grantee will receive \$1,980 per semester, \$1,320 if quarterly, or \$3,960 per annum.

The Scholarship Office on Friday emphasized that all these applications are subject for approval by the scholarship board.

All students in both programs are given until Sept. 30 to submit supporting documents for their applications.

The scholarship board earli-

er disclosed that it will revisit the EAP program this school year as a result of anticipated budget cuts in all government departments.

Every year, some \$3 million from poker license fees is appropriated by the Legislature to these programs, including the Scholarship Office's personnel and operation.

Because circumstances vary from year to year, an EAP award for one year is no assurance of the same level of assistance in subsequent years.

Reyes' small claims vs King dismissed

By FERDIE DE LA TORRE
ferdie_delatorre@saipantribune.com
REPORTER

Superior Court Associate Judge Kenneth Govendo has dismissed the small claims filed by press secretary Charles Reyes Jr. against lawyer Janet H. King.

During a three-day bench trial that ended Friday, Govendo denied all of Reyes' claims and dismissed his complaint against King, a former Miss CNMI Universe.

Govendo ruled that when Reyes purchased the items for King and she offered to pay for them and he declined, saying it was "Okay" or "No problem" or "No, it's okay," that converted those items into gifts.

When asked for comments yesterday about the judge's decision, Robert T. Torres, lawyer for King, said his client is very pleased that the court had found the claims by Reyes to be without merit and failed.

"She vigorously defended the case and is satisfied with its proper result: dismissal," Torres said.

Reyes told *Saipan Tribune* yesterday that despite his loss, it was a good experience and that he learned some very valuable lessons.

Reyes said Torres is probably

one of the best local attorneys in the CNMI.

"I was representing myself without the benefit of legal counsel, so I was at a disadvantage from the start," he said.

The press secretary said he is just sorry that his quasi-contract claims against King were not upheld.

"Contrary to Ms. King's testimony, I only declined two items, which she later re-affirmed and which I then accepted," he said.

Reyes said King claimed that he declined her offer to reimburse all items.

"I denied this, but the court believed her testimony over mine. It was basically her word against



Reyes King

mine and the court favored her testimony. That is why I lost the

case," he said.

In his complaint, Reyes alleged that King asked her to buy various items and accepted various gifts from her while she was investigating his bar complaint before the CNMI Bar Association's Disciplinary Committee.

Reyes said his small claims against King is for less than

\$500, excluding the process service and court filing fees that he could recover if he is successful in the case.

Torres earlier told *Saipan Tribune* that the small claims deal with issues where one offers or provides gifts and then, after having been jilted, proceeds to make claims.

"It is a classic disappointed suitor profile," Torres had said.



"Cibo e Vino" at Giovanni's

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Senators oppose bill to impose fee on plastic bags

The Senate has rejected the passage of a House of Representatives bill that would impose a fee on plastic checkout bags being distributed in retail stores.

During Thursday afternoon's session, all six senators present—Senate President Pete Reyes, Paul Manglona, Maria Frica Pangelinan, Jude Hofsneider, Luis Crisostimo, and Joseph Mendiola—expressed their opposition to the legislation.

Reyes suggested that, instead of kill-

ing the legislation, they would just return it to the Senate committee for further deliberation. The senators agreed.

Mendiola said he is concerned with the provisions of the bill, specifically the fees that are going to be charged against the customers.

"There are no guards to make sure that storeowners are truly charging the customers," Mendiola said.

Crisostimo said the legislation should be more specific on the fees.

Pangelinan said the bill will just bur-

den the private sector and the consumers, not to mention the big task of the Division of Environmental Quality in enforcing it.

Pangelinan recommended that the bill be returned to the House for more amendments or further comments from concerned agencies.

Hofsneider said there should more deliberation on the issue considering that it will possibly cause economic impact on consumers.

Manglona said that, on a small is-

land like Rota, plastic bags are very important to people in their daily lives because they recycle the bags.

Manglona said plastic bags pose a big health or environmental problem in a big city, but Rota is not California.

"I cannot support this legislation," he said.

Reyes said there should be a recommendation on how to improve the bill so as not to burden businesses and store customers.

Discarded non-compostable plastic bags pollute the environment and pose a significant threat to animals.

According to the U.S. Environmen-

tal Protection Agency, over 380 billion plastic bags, sacks and wraps are consumed in the U.S. each year.

Hundreds of thousands of sea turtles, whales and other marine mammals reportedly die every year from eating discarded plastic bags mistaken for food.

Under the bill, beginning Jan. 1, 2010, every grocery store shall assess a "checkout bag fee" of not less than \$0.05 but no more than \$0.25 for each and every plastic checkout bag provided for the use of customers.

DEQ shall have the authority to determine the "checkout bag fee" pursuant to the Act. (*Ferdie de la Torre*)

Kilili lauds Tony Babauta's nomination

WASHINGTON, D.C.—CNMI Rep. Gregorio "Kilili" C. Sablan has praised the nomination of Anthony Marion Babauta as Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs in the Department of the Interior, saying that Babauta deserves it.

In a statement of support issued over the weekend in response to the White House

announcement last week that President Obama intends to nominate Babauta, Sablan said it is a high honor for Babauta and is well deserved.

"Tony has spent his entire career working for the good of the people of his home in Guam and all the U.S. insular areas. Mr. Babauta was instrumental in the

passage of legislation that provided a seat in Congress for the people of the Northern Mariana Islands in the last Congress. I am sure that in his new capacity as Assistant Secretary for Insular Affairs Tony Babauta



Babauta

will continue to put his experience and his compassion to work for

the benefit of American Samoa, Guam, the Northern Mariana Islands, and the U.S. Virgin Islands.

"The selection of Mr. Babauta is also a mark of respect by President Obama for the people of the U.S.

insular areas. The President has elevated the management of federal affairs in the islands to the Assistant Secretary level, as it was during the Clinton Administration. And he has chosen one of our own to look out for our welfare. Those decisions reveal a sensitivity to the difficulties all of the insular areas face in their development as part of the American political and eco-

nomic family.

"I thank the President for his choice of Mr. Babauta to be Interior Department Assistant Secretary. I recommended Tony for this position. I will continue to support him as he seeks confirmation by the US Senate. And I look forward to working with Tony Babauta in his new position over the coming years." Said Sablan. (*PR*)

The General Public Is Invited to Attend a Free Lecture on the Study of Prehistoric Human Remains

WHO: Michael Pietruszewsky Ph.D., Guest Lecturer

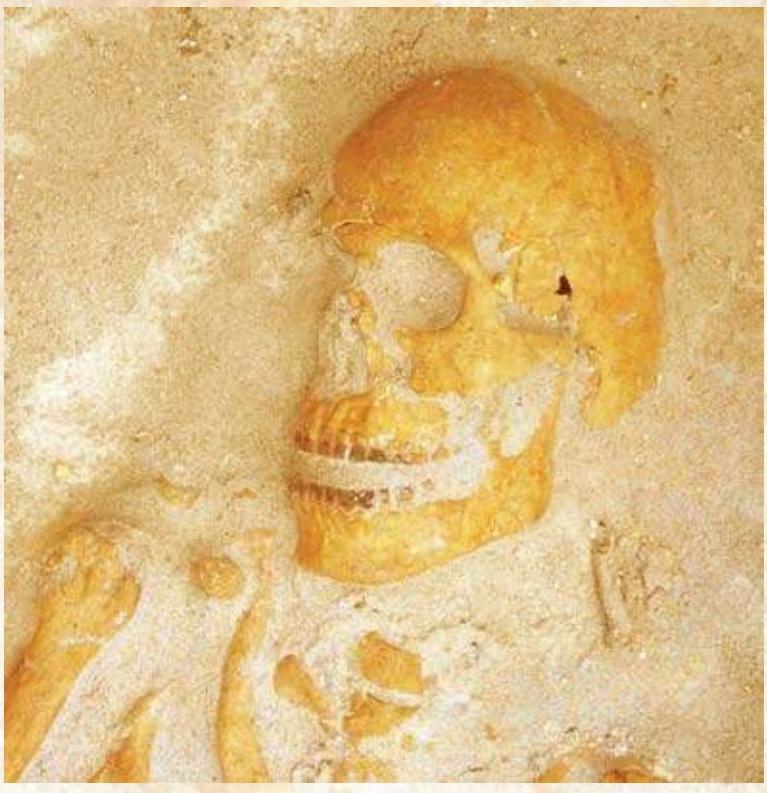
WHAT: Lecture on Bio-anthropological Studies and General Health of the Prehistoric Populations in the Mariana Islands with an Emphasis on Saipan.

WHERE: American Memorial Park Auditorium - Garapan

WHEN: 6-8 pm, July 18, 2009

WHY: Dr. Pietruszewsky's lecture will include an assessment of community health (life expectancies, fertility, stature), and disease (dental pathologies, healed fractures, spondylolysis) for the Mariana Islands with an emphasis on Saipan studies. The lecture will be visually assisted by a power point presentation which will illustrate examples of skeletal attributes or pathologies.

The morning of the 18 , between 8:00 am and 11:00 am, SHARC and Dr. Pietruszewsky will provideth a tour for the Northern Marianas College students of Sam McPhetres History Class and interested members of the public. Interested persons should meet at the Dolphin Wholesale Parking lot in San Jose and may contact Marilyn Swift at 235-6287 for more information.



Please note: This project is supported in part by the National Endowment for the Humanities. Any views, findings, or conclusions expressed in this lecture are those of the presenter and do not necessarily represent those of the National Endowment for Humanities nor the Northern Mariana Islands Council for the Humanities.

REQUEST FOR PROPOSALS WATER TASK FORCE RFP09-GOV-110

A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir

Governor Benigno R. Fitial and Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, through the CNMI Water Task Force, are soliciting sealed Proposals from licensed architectural and engineering (A&E) firms for the Design of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir, Carolinas, Tinian, Commonwealth of the Northern Mariana Islands (CNMI).

The project Scope of Work will be available at the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, on or after **June 22, 2009**.

All questions concerning this proposal shall be submitted in writing no later than 4:30 pm, **July 7, 2009**, to Pedro Sasamoto, WTF Program Manager (facsimile) number (670) 664-2279.

This project is funded in part by a grant from the Office of Insular Affairs (OIA), Department of the Interior. Award of this project is contingent upon receipt of project approval from OIA.

The proposal procedures shall be in full compliance with the CNMI Procurement Regulations. Preference is available to local proposers per Public Law 15-95 as further amended by Public Law 15-118. If preference is claimed, it must be claimed at the time of proposal submission.

Four (4) copies plus one original of the sealed Proposals must be submitted to the Office of the Director, Division of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, MP 96950 no later than **2:00 p.m., (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**.

Proposals must be sealed and marked "**A&E of Tinian 0.5 Million Gallon Reservoir Project, RFP09- GOV-110**". For proposers within the CNMI, one (1) original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be submitted to the Director of Procurement and Supply, Lower Base, Saipan, no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**. Proposers located outside of the CNMI may obtain an additional seven (7) working days for receipt of their proposal by submitting a Notice of Intent to Propose. Notices of Intent to Propose must be received by the Director of Procurement & Supply no later than **2:00 p.m. (CNMI local time), on July 22, 2009**, and may be transmitted via facsimile to (670) 664-1515 or email procurement@pticom.com. For proposers located outside the CNMI, one original and four (4) copies of sealed proposals must be postmarked by the U.S. Postal Service or the official government postal service of a foreign country no later than **July 22, 2009** and must be received no later than **July 31, 2009**. Note that failure to submit the required number of copies may be cause for rejection of a proposal.

The CNMI reserves the right to reject any and all proposals and to waive any imperfections in any proposal if to do so shall be in the best interests of the CNMI. All Proposals shall become the exclusive property of the CNMI government.

Benigno R. Fitial
Governor, CNMI

Herman S. Sablan
Director, Procurement & Supply

**BIRTHDAY SHOUTOUT**

Happy birthday to Kimberly Attao Concepcion, who is celebrating her 26th birthday today, July 13. Greetings come from your Chalan Piao family!

CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

NMI to get share of \$141M energy grant funds

The U.S. Energy Department announced Friday it will provide more than \$448 million in Recovery Act funding to expand weatherization programs in 13 states, and more than \$141 million to support energy efficiency and renewable energy projects in six areas, including the Northern Mariana Islands.

Funds for energy efficiency will be given to projects that include energy audits, building retrofits, education and training efforts, transportation programs to increase the use of alternative fuels and hybrid cars, and financial mechanisms to promote energy efficiency and renewable energy investments.

The rest of the funds for the DOE's weatherization program will be available for low-income families which are eligible for the funds to make their homes more energy efficient to save on overall annual energy bills.

"These awards demonstrate the Obama Administration's strong commitment to moving

quickly as part of the country's economic recovery—creating jobs and doing important work for the American people—while ensuring that taxpayer dollars are spent responsibly," said U.S. Department of Energy Secretary Steven Chu in a statement on Friday.

States receiving money for weatherization programs are:

Alabama, Idaho, Maine, Missouri, New Jersey, Oklahoma, Rhode Island, Texas, Vermont, Virginia, Wisconsin, Washington, and Wyoming.

States receiving funds for energy efficiency and renewable energy programs are: Hawaii, Maine, Nebraska, New Mexico, the Northern Mariana Islands and Texas. (**KGMB9 News**)

Fiji chief confirms dinner with Thai fugitive

SUVA, Fiji (Fiji Sun/PIR)—A deposed leader of Thailand had a business dinner with Prime Minister Commodore Voreqe Bainimarama on Monday night, the State confirmed yesterday.

Speaking from Vanuatu yesterday Commodore Bainimarama revealed he met with former Thai leader Thaksin Shinawatra.

He added the billionaire former leader announced his interest to invest in Fiji.

"The meeting was very good and also fruitful," Bainimarama said. "I am happy that I met with someone who is willing to invest his money in Fiji for development and to contribute to our economy as a whole."

He didn't reveal further details of the meeting.

Permanent Secretary for Information Lieutenant-Colonel Neumi Leweni said the dinner saw the discussion of a business proposal and that was all he could reveal at this stage.

Thaksin was a senior police officer who built a telecommu-

nations empire worth billions of dollars.

He became Thailand's prime minister from 2001 before being ousted in a military coup in September 2006, while he was attending the UN General Assembly.

It is believed Thaksin is wanted in Bangkok where he faces two years in jail for alleged abuse of power.

Overseas media reports stated that Thaksin used an assumed name to enter Fiji, although his true identity was known to the authorities, who approved his visit in advance.

The Thai government has cancelled Thaksin's Thai passport, and says he is currently using a passport issued by Montenegro.

Thailand's deputy prime

minister, Thaworn Sennian, said Thaksin had earlier flown to Kuala Lumpur, where he stayed en route to Fiji. Thai embassy officials immediately sought Mr Thaksin's arrest and extradition.

"Somehow, Thaksin managed to get wind of the impending arrest and escaped," Thaworn said.

Thaksin was believed to be heading next for Tonga and then to Port Vila in Vanuatu.

PACIFIC BRIEFS

Expert sees dire weather ahead in Pacific

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A New Zealand climate expert has issued a bleak forecast on the impact of climate change in the Pacific. The manager of Pacific Activities at the National Institute of Water and Atmospheric Research, Doug Ramsay, says the impact will come from extreme weather events, such as cyclones and drought, and will be exacerbated by the rising level and temperature of the sea. He says this will affect the viability of some communities in the region. "Food security, water resources will become much more harder to sustain, particularly if temperatures increase beyond one, two degrees centigrade. So if we're getting up to some of the more higher projections by the end of the century it will become increasingly difficult for Pacific island communities to maintain a viable population there." Doug Ramsay says atoll communities are most at risk and it will be up to individual communities and people to judge whether to stay or leave.

Convicted American Samoa official spared jail

WELLINGTON, New Zealand (RNZI/PIR)—A former principal accountant of the Customs division of Samoa's Ministry of Revenue in Samoa has been convicted on four counts of theft as a servant and ordered to pay a fine of more than 4,000 US dollars. Joe Fepulea'i was found guilty last month of stealing more than 3,000 US dollars of public funds. He has been ordered to pay the fine within seven days or he will be sent to jail for eleven months in default. The Supreme Court judge, Vui Clarence Nelson, says the humiliation and suffering of the defendant's family from the case, as well as being a first offender, does not save him from the seriousness of the offences he had committed because of breach

Kiwi leader's plane screened for

of trust. Fepulea'i is suffering from debilitating gout which the court took into account.

flu in Apia

APIA, Samoa (Samoa Observer/PIR)—Officials wearing masks boarded the New Zealand Prime Minister's plane when it arrived at Faleolo International Airport

yesterday. They wanted to screen the delegation for swine flu symptoms as part of the country's efforts to prevent the spread of the flu. Of the four countries on the whistle stop tour around the Pacific, Samoa is the only one with a confirmed swine flu case. Officials checked for symptoms and nurses waited alongside the airport to check the temperatures of anyone considered suspect. None

of the delegation was stopped—but the measures show how concerned Samoa is to prevent the spread around the island after the 1918 influenza wiped out about one third of its population.

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COMMUNITY BRIEFS
Public meeting in Kagman

Kagman residents are invited to a public meeting at the Kagman Community Center. Kagman Komunitad Association will be present to discuss about pending road projects for Kagman. Residents from Kagman 4 are strongly encouraged to attend meeting. Meeting is at 7pm on Tuesday, July 14.

Live fire exercises on FDM tomorrow

The U.S. Naval Forces Marianas Guam will be conducting live fire exercises on the island of Farallon de Mendenilla tomorrow, July 14, according to the Emergency Management Office. It will be held from 7am to 9pm on July 14, and will cover a 10 nautical miles radius.

Due to the dangers imposed by this activity EMO strongly

advises the public—especially fishermen, commercial pilots and marine tour operators—to stay away from the area during the exercises.

For more information, contact the EMO Operations Section at 322-9528 and 322-9529, VHF MARINE CHNL 16, and for advisory tune in to HF Single Side Band Radio on 5.205.0 or CNMI 211. (*EMO*)

Win a trip to the Northern Islands

The Friends of the Monument are holding an essay contest to select a young person to go on a trip to the Northern Islands scheduled for July 20–30.

The topic for the essay contest is “Why I want to visit the Marianas Trench Marine National Monument.” The deadline for submissions is today, July 13, at 5pm. Essays must

be in Microsoft Word format and e-mailed to marianamonument@gmail.com. There is a 1,000 word limit for the essay. Applicants must be between 18–25 years old.

The winning essay writer will earn a seat on a boat leaving for Maug on July 20, 2009. All transportation and food costs will be paid for. If for any reason the boat trip is canceled, the winner will have a seat on the next planned expedition.

The winner will be expected to keep a daily journal that will be published on the Friends of the Monument blog found at <http://marianamonument.blogspot.com>. (*PR*)

Pesticide amnesty this week

The Pesticide Amnesty for Saipan, Rota and Tinian will

take place starting Thursday, July 16, until July 18.

The collection is only one day for each island. On Saipan, the collection will be at two sites: the Kagman Agricultural Station and Koblerville Fire Station; on Rota the collection will be at the Sunset Villa property on Friday, July 17; and Tinian on Saturday, July 18.

The purpose of the amnesty is to allow the community an opportunity—at no cost—to dispose of unwanted pesticides and pesticide containers. DEQ encourages farmers and businesses who apply pesticides to participate in this one time opportunity. In addition, DEQ says that transportation permits will not be required for the purpose of transporting pesticides as part of the amnesty collection. (*DEQ*)

Flashback

A LOOK BACK AT PAST YEARS' HEADLINES
JULY 13, 1999
MVA to proceed with tourism pitch in China

Despite the restrictions imposed by the Department of Labor and Immigration, the Marianas Visitors Authority has not given up on its plan to entice tourists from mainland China to visit the Northern Marianas. MVA Board Chairman Dave M. Sablan said he believes that the process, which has been put in place by the immigration officials, would not allow any visitor to run away and become an illegal alien. While the Commonwealth handles its own immigration system, Sablan said such opportunity must be taken advantage of by the CNMI government.

Lower tax for cosmetic products eyed

Besieged with complaints that cosmetic products are very expensive on the island, the chair of the House Ways and Means Committee has vowed to study the possibility of slashing the stiff excise tax on these items to help lower their price in the local market. Rep. Karl T. Reyes said the government stands to lose more revenues if it does not correct the existing duties imposed on cosmetic products, which include popular items as make-up, powder, hair spray and other consumer goods that have become necessity for personal hygiene. At present, the Commonwealth levies 17.25 percent tax on every item brought into the island—a prohibitive cost that is added on the overall retail value of these cosmetic goods, according to the chairman.

JULY 13, 2000
Rebate checks out this weekend

In what appears to be an indication of stabilizing government revenues, the Department of Finance is poised at releasing the first batch of rebate and refund checks this weekend after experiencing delay in its issuance during the last two years. Finance officials said the revenue and taxation division has completed the processing of the first batch of 1999 income tax refunds and rebates, which total 9,213. According to a media statement from the Office of Finance Secretary Lucy Nielsen, taxpayers who have filed their ITRs by March 17, 2000 can expect their rebate or refund checks out this weekend.

Tenorio wants 902 talks resumed

Apparently disappointed over a package of economic initiatives and assistance proposed by President Clinton for the islands, the CNMI government is now seeking resumption of consultation talks to bridge differences with the federal government. Several issues involving the Commonwealth's relations with Washington are better discussed in the meeting set forth under Section 902 of the Covenant, according to Gov. Pedro P. Tenorio who raised the concern in reaction to a recent report from the Clinton administration. The Interagency Group on Insular Areas, formed by the president in August last year, came out with the draft report resulting from several meetings between White House senior officials and governors of the CNMI, Guam, American Samoa and Virgin Islands.

JULY 13, 2001
4 government officials sued

Four government officials including Attorney General Herbert Soll and Public Works Secretary Juan B. Cepeda were sued by a business consortium in connection with the bidding of the multi-million dollar Saipan prison project. Aside from Soll and Cepeda, losing joint venture bidder Western Equipment, Inc. and DRC Pacific, Inc. impleaded Assistant Attorney General Murphy Peterson and Department of Finance's Procurement and Supply Director Herman S. Sablan in the case. Docketed in the Superior Court as Civil Action No. 01-388E, the suit, legally known as a “complaint for injunctive relief,” seeks to restrain the concerned government officials in awarding the project contract to leading bidder Telesource CNMI, Inc..

Businesses face penalty for alleged trespassing

Thirty-three establishments are facing stiff penalties, including payment of rental fees to the Office of Public Lands, for allegedly encroaching on government-controlled properties in Western Garapan. The Strategic Economic Development Council is scheduled to sit down with OPL and Northern Marianas Housing Corporation officials to discuss the alleged trespassing. SEDC-Destination Enhancement Committee Chair Marian Aldan-Pierce underscored the need to correct encroachment problems in the Garapan area. The encroachment reportedly involves the businesses' illegal use of public lands as parking lot.



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Mag to feature Saipan Int'l Flipper Race

The inaugural Saipan International Flipper Race held in June 2009 is already drawing new attention to the Northern Mariana Islands.

Marine Diving, a monthly diving magazine with a circulation of 170,000 in Japan, is expected to dedicate five full pages to the race and other attractions of Saipan in its September 2009 edition. The estimated exposure value of the article is over \$39,000.

"We're pleased to see there has been editorial interest in the event and that it is attracting attention in Japan," said Marianas Visitors Authority managing director Perry Tenorio. "We are already looking at ways to make next year's event better."

The Saipan International Flipper Race attracted 58 local and international competitors to a 1.5 km swimming course held June 20, 2009, around the island of Managaha. Managaha was

selected Best Beach & Snorkeling Spot at Japan's Marine Diving Fair's 7th Dive & Travel Awards 2009, an award it had garnered six times.

While on Saipan on June 19-27, 2009, *Marine Diving* photographer/writer Tomohito Ishimaru also visited DFS Galleria and Joeten Shopping Center, took a diving tour, and lodged at Pacific Islands Club Saipan and Hafa Adai Beach Hotel. (MVA)



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Marine Diving photographer/writer Tomohito Ishimaru, left, and Marianas Visitors Authority marketing specialist Tatiana Babauta at Managaha island for the Saipan International Open Water Flipper Race in June 2009. The 1.5 km race around Managaha, recently re-awarded Best Snorkeling Spot at Japan's Marine Diving Fair, will be featured in the September 2009 edition of the Japanese magazine.



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PUBLIC NOTICE

"This notice is paid for with HUD funds by NMHC"
July 13, 2009

Governor Benigno R. Fitial, Lt. Governor Eloy S. Inos, and the Northern Marianas Housing Corporation (NMHC) Board of Directors, through its Chairwoman of the Board, wish to announce that the Program Year 2009 Annual Action Plan is available for the public's review and comments. The Action Plan encompasses applications for the Community Development Block Grant (CDBG), Home Investment Partnership (HOME), and Emergency Shelter Grant (ESG) Programs in the Commonwealth. Comments may be directed to Mr. Joshua T. Sasamoto, Corporate Director, NMHC Central Office, P.O. Box 500514, Saipan, MP 96950, or by fax to (670) 234-9021. Deadline for the comment period is August 12, 2009, no later than 4:30 p.m.

The Plan is available for public review and inspection at NMHC's Central Office in Garapan, Saipan, and at the respective NMHC Field Offices in Tinian and Rota during regular business hours, 7:30 a.m. to 4:30 p.m., Monday through Friday, except for CNMI holidays. Individuals needing special accommodations to review and comment on the plan must contact Ms. Zenie P. Mafnas, Grant Writer/Planner for arrangements by calling (670) 234-6866/7689 during regular business hours.



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Opinion

Saipan Tribune

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EDITORIAL

Securing the Internet

Where is our cyber-czar? As recent attacks on government and private Web sites illustrate, cyber-security is a critical national issue. That's why President Obama was right when he moved to create a high-ranking "cyber-czar" to guide the development of cyber-defense. Now, months later, there is work to be done, and there is still no one in place to do it. Obama's initial notion of a dual-role coordinator reporting to the National Economic Council and the National Security Council may be the problem — its nebulous authority has scared off even top potential contenders. Attracting someone to this vital job may mean giving the czar clearer authority to monitor and coordinate security efforts that are spread across multiple agencies. But the need for someone to develop a coherent cyber-policy is pressing.

Thousands of cyber-attacks occur every day on private and public networks, jeopardizing the data of more than 280 million people last year. But Obama's report on cyberspace policy found that "government is not organized to address this growing problem effectively now or in the future. Responsibilities for cyber-security are distributed across a wide array of federal departments and agencies, many with overlapping authorities, and none with sufficient decision authority."

The lack of a guiding vision has implications beyond mere inefficiency. The nation's cyber-defenses are being developed without any structure to guarantee transparency and accountability. So last month, when Defense Secretary Robert Gates created a consolidated military Cyber-Security Command, to be headed by the director of the National Security Agency, and this month, when a pilot program began expanding NSA technologies to protect civilian networks, these moves raised questions. Currently, cyber-defense responsibilities are split between the Department of Homeland Security and the Defense Department. But DHS cyber-defenders are becoming increasingly reliant on the capability developed at the Pentagon, a trend that will continue in the persistent absence of any better plan. If Americans don't want the NSA to become the clearinghouse for all cyber-security issues — a responsibility Gates does not want, either — an alternative vision is needed, and soon.

When Obama first made cyber-security an administration priority, he promised to keep government defenses out of private networks. But the Internet is an interconnected series of networks, making it difficult to determine where private security threats end and public ones begin. To defend against attacks, it may become necessary for the public and private sectors to share information and strategies for dealing with threats. All the more reason to make someone accountable for striking the right balance between liberty, security and openness.

(c) 2009, The Washington Post



Clues to China's imperial thinking in Xinjiang

WASHINGTON—Most Americans have never heard of Gen. Zuo Zongtang, but when they hit the local Chinese takeout and order a greasy carton of General Tso's chicken, they're invoking his name. By 1878, Zuo, or Tso, marching west from his base in Shaanxi province with 120,000 troops, had extended China's imperial reach deep into Central Asia. The boundaries set by Zuo's campaign in a region called Xinjiang, or the New Territories, have remained essentially untouched to this day.

Chinese like to point out that Zuo's victories in Xinjiang occurred just two years after Gen. George Armstrong Custer died at the Battle of Little Bighorn trying to corral members of the Lakota and Cheyenne tribes back into their reservations. They compare their treatment of China's minorities such as the Tibetans or the Uighurs—who speak a Turkic language, read Arabic script and are culturally if not altogether religiously Muslim—and the white man's handling of Native Americans. See, I've been told countless times by Chinese friends, it's not just the white man's burden to bring civilization to the "natives," it's the yellow man's burden, too.

The violence last week in Xinjiang between Uighurs and Han Chinese underscores two nettlesome issues for China. First, despite its world-beating economic growth rate, its maglev trains in Shanghai and its postmodern Olympic Village in Beijing, China is still an empire in the throes of becoming a country. And second, if this empire really is going to "rule the world" someday, as a recent book predicts, is its treatment of Xinjiang a harbinger of how it plans to deal with us? And are the violent reactions to China's power something that will erupt not just on China's streets but around the world?

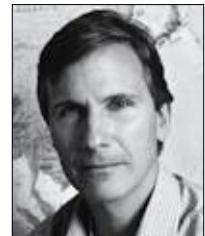
Continuing the policies of the Qing Dynasty, China's Communist leaders have always treated Xinjiang more like an imperial outpost than a province. In 1949, Chairman Mao dispatched one of his most trusted generals to tame it. Wang Zhen then became its first governor, and its economy remains dominated by a state farm system established by the People's Liberation Army. Millions of Han Chinese were initially forced and then encouraged to populate Xinjiang in a scheme to dilute its Uighur majority. In 1949, Han were 6 percent of Xinjiang's population; in 2000, the year of the last census, they made up 40 percent.

A program to develop China's west launched in the early years of this century has had the air of an imperial edict to settle savage lands—and extract all the available oil, gas and minerals while you're at it. Chinese scholars invoked America's concept of Manifest Destiny and its Wild West when writing about the

By JOHN POMFRET

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John Pomfret is the editor of The Washington Post's Outlook section and the author of Chinese Lessons: Five Classmates and the Story of the New China.



plan. Others saw a parallel to Israel's Jewish settlements in the West Bank; even the irrigation technology Han settlers use is designed by Israeli engineers.

Xinjiang isn't the only place where, for better or worse, China seems more empire than nation-state. There's Tibet, of course, which has been under military occupation since the 1950s and erupts spasmodically in anti-Chinese violence, most recently last year. And there is Hong Kong. The city passed from British to Chinese control in 1997, but it remains a colony—except its overlords are no longer in Whitehall, they're in Beijing. Meanwhile, the deal China is offering Taiwan, the final piece in China's decades-old imperial dream to unite the motherland, parallels the one in place for the old British colony.

As for Manifest Destiny, the Han commonly view Uighurs in stereotypical terms. Landing at Kashgar's airport once, I asked a Han cabbie whether his wife was Uighur, knowing full well that mixed marriages are as common there as they were in the segregated American South. The guy practically veered into an oncoming truck and then proceeded to regale me with anecdotes about the wanton sexuality of Uighur girls. "But we're civilizing them!" he assured me.

As China rises, what will be the face of its civilizing mission to the rest of the world? And how will the world respond? Will we chafe at China's power like the Uighurs did in Xinjiang? They countered violently, wantonly killing Han Chinese, burning cars and ransacking stores. And if that happens, will the face of Beijing's reaction mirror those chilling photographs of grim-faced Han men armed with big sticks, prowling the streets of Xinjiang's capital, Urumqi?

Earlier this year, an American chief executive mused that he'd rather be China's President Hu Jintao, who cancelled his participation in the G-8 summit to deal with the Xinjiang crisis, than President Obama. But Hu has got the tougher job. Leading an empire in the 21st century is no joke, especially if that empire is the People's Republic of China.

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BOE and Mr. V

For a while there, I suffered from some delusions of competence. After resigning from teaching 6th graders at SVES, and having contributed unsolicited comments on the workings of the Public School System, the Board of Education, and the Association of Commonwealth Teachers, I actually considered putting my name on the ballot for a BOE seat. Like all politicians, being rhetorically passionate about education is as American as heaping vanilla ice cream on apple pie.

Illusions of electability followed. Securing large and bold letters that would stencil "Mr. V to BOE" on the side of my pickup, I proceeded to pick up a candidate form from the Commonwealth Election Commission to launch a Tina Sablan-type of political campaign, complete with a participatory format for a series of small group evening conversations on Beach Road.

My base area was going to be around the amphitheatre by Quartermaster Rd. tank where we once held community gatherings to launch a community node under the guidance of former SVES parent Ivan Groom that highlighted known practices of curtailing non-source pollution along the lagoon.

I even took it as my personal task to see to it that the tree planted by a group of Rotarians on the side of the solar powered restroom close to the tank six years ago was going to survive. I carted 10 five-gallon containers of rain catchment water on the back of my pickup to water the dry during dry spells.

Somewhere came the notion that Herman Guerrero, current BOE vice-chair and colleague in the Council for the Humanities was not seeking reelection. Galvin's consent to be nominated for the Lt. Governor's office created a possible vacancy. "It is doable," I said, as I prepared to wear all my "No Teachers Left Behind" emblazoned t-shirts.

When I picked up candidate forms from the Election Commission, however, I found out that Herman had already been there. That dampened my strategizing a bit and when Galvin's team came second in the primaries, my list of people to approach to sign my peti-

Gotpi Gi Rimulinon Pineble

By JOHN S. DELROSARIO JR.
SPECIAL TO THE SAIPAN TRIBUNE

Yangin ta totpi didog na chinatsaga pot minalañgu 'sino diminalas gi familia, dañgkulu este na aminasu gi maseha haye na taotaota guine. Ayu mas man-inaminasa i man-mamatmos gi tasin pineble yan inutet na taotaota siha. Piot ya taya atension para ennao na amku.

Hu lie' este na chinatsaga gi ayu siha i man-sala chetnot niha tat komo daibites, kaset 'sino petmanente inutit i prohimu. Makat na kontrariu diariamente. Namase' i prohimu sa` ti siña ha ayudan maisague.

Gi 1972, pagu hu tutuhon offisioghu kumu gasiteru, masañganeyu put un' biha ni sumasaga gi un' mayulañg guma gi distritu numiru dos. Humanaoyu hu rikonose pot para bai` ketuñgu haf estaoña. Todo i dos adeñga ma-utut esta, ya matatachoñg gi hilu wheel chair. Mamaisa i amku, niunu gaige para yangin tineti gotpi. Masafagane na debi u huyoñg gimen ayu na lugat. Nina' saga guihue ni un' defuntu mayot.

Tula nocheyu kumilug gi katregu sa mampos ha estotbayu i linie' hu guuhe nas taloane. Guaha tumaitai ayu na estoria ya dispues makone i biha para un' guma MIHA ya mana' liheñg. Magofyu 'nai hu tuñgu na guaha dispues ayudu manaegue.

Mafattu gi hinashogu un'kuestion: Hafa mohon ya guahu finagchae' nu ayu na chinatsaga? Ti siña hu komprende lao klaru magahet na guaha gi entre taotaota man-namase' ya estague' siha i munesesita ayudun komunitatta. Na fan geftao korason miyu gi este na modun chinatsagan natibu.

■ ■ ■

Un' patgon namase' ha soda un' palaoan ni mauleg para nanan famaguofia. Ha sañgane si nanaña na listugue mamaisen saina ya kao siña inayudague'.

Finaisen haye na familia. Ineppe ensegidas. Dispues duru tuhu lagoña sa` i ha malague' lahiña familiar man-magas. Ha soyu i lahiña na u fan espiha otru sa` mamposgue arastrao na rasan taotao ya ti chiluñg i para u talag halom gi gima un' tatkiu na familia. Ilegña: "Makat lalihu i un' diseseha, fan espiha otru ni achaiguamu".

Ineppe ni lahiña: "Pot ti siña na hu safaisen hao ni ayudumu".

Mamaisen saina si nanaña dispues ya umakamu i lahiña. Lao kada ratu tuhu lagoña 'an ha sañgan i ha pega komo chatgrasiaña. Si tatahu hu sasañgan estoriaña.

■ ■ ■

Un' bihu sessu umega' bola' an Dameñgu, satton. Mafaisen un' biahe kao sisña ha' gi chechu kasamiento. Ilegña i amku: "Ai, famaguonhu, kulan tilifon. Guaha na madiliñgdiñg ya hu oppe. Lau megañga besis na madiliñgdiñg ya ti siña hu oppe".

tion for candidacy got shelved.

The process from autosuggestion to implementation did provide some moments of meditation, contemplation and prayer. I would really be a neophyte in the political arena, the last election I was in being that in 19-forgotten College Student Council where I managed to squeak by with 10 votes for the presidency.

But more profoundly, and importantly, the period of musing whether to make the run was while I was defining my options on what to do to manage an irritating spur growth on my cervical bones without the touch of the scalpel, the enormity of the responsibility that goes with being at BOE became crystal clear.

Not one who considers public office as an instance of a popularity contest, I am confident that four decades of service in the voluntary sector, particularly in the area of contextual and practical pedagogy, must count for something. This, with a BOE consumed nostril-deep in figuring the support and administration of a public education system, with nary much thought to the makeshift curriculum thrusts that seems to be a hodge-podge of borrowings from the requirements of external agencies *sans* consideration of internal requirements, I began to have serious doubts about the wisdom of dipping my chopsticks into the local stew. Passing interest failed to develop into conceit.

Still, when one hears responsible leaders declare that the goal of education is to prepare the young to qualify for employment, one cringes at the constricting parameters of such definition. There are 2 million highly educated new graduates in China today who could not find a job, and we are talking about the most robust of all the economies in the world.

As an educator, I consider public schooling as preparation for anyone to be economically self-sufficient in a sustainable planetary evolutionary process, politically self-reliant in an ever broadening democratic milieu, and culturally self-confident in a multi-ethnic, multi-racial, and religiously diverse ambience, of self-motivated individuals operating in a social context of mutual interdependence.

The tyranny of the economic, at a time when responsible conservatives and facilitative liberals are agreed that humanity is singing the requiem of the known fossil-fuel dependent industrial civilization, created conditions of inequitable resource access and wealth distribution

Letters to the Editor

Can you imagine...?

Can you just imagine how much scrambling must have been going on in the Governor's Office over this past weekend to try and come up with at least a semi-plausible explanation as to what happened to \$24.4 million of the \$41.6 million in federal cover-over funds that Deloitte & Touche says the NMI received during FY 08, but didn't show up in the books?

Perhaps the conversation was something like this:

"Maybe they'll believe it was a typo?" Nah.

"The check bounced?" Nah.

"It was an addition error in the books?" Nah.

"D & T made a mistake?" Nah.

"I know—we'll ask the feds!" Nah.

"It was 'balanced out' through deficit reduction?" Nah ("we already used that one").

Maintain Aetna insurance!

Dear Governor Fitial: This is to respectfully request for your approval of House Bill 16-262, HD1 that includes the appropriation of \$122,630.13 to Aetna for the payment of medical expenses incurred by members of the government health insurance program. The people of the Northern Marianas cannot afford to be out of health insurance. There are over 10,000 parents and children who benefit from the Aetna health insurance. Aetna is one of the best medical insurance we ever have in the history of the Northern Marianas government, and failing to pay the cost of health insurance is a detrimental to the livelihood of the people of our great Commonwealth. The livelihood of our people now rest on your hands.

Governor Fitial, after having a heart surgery, I am thanking God that we have Aetna insurance. Right now, I'd rather pay my Aetna health insurance than putting food on my table. I am serious, this is how badly I needed the Aetna insurance. I cannot speak for other members, but I know they would march with me to ask you for your approval of HB 16-262, HD1.

Thank you for keeping our people of the Commonwealth in good health and providing the best health insurance.

Remi R. Sablan
Garapan, Saipan

By JAIME VERGARA

Special to the Saipan Tribune

Vergara is a regular contributor to the Saipan Tribune's Opinion Section.



of 15 percent amongst us lording it over the remaining 85 percent of the world's population, a clear moral dilemma of our time.

One shudders at the shortsightedness of using job employment as the sole or even the major assessment tool to measuring the relevance of public education. That is almost as constricting as the passing of PRAXIS as the determining ingredient in defining a highly qualified teacher! But let me not digress.

Mr. V to BOE will not lead to a successful inclusion into the representative, though not always functional, high-level think-tank of the education system, but it has impressed upon me as an aware citizen to engage in public discourse and deliberation on the direction of teaching and learning in our body politic.

So this summer, when the living is easy, perhaps, we can inject our thoughts into the public discussion on how we know what we know, how students, parents, teachers and administrators collaborate and cooperate in the learning process to mutual advantage of growth in community rather than just in compliance to the requirements of impersonal funding sources, and what finally might be the most helpful image to hold in narrating the nature of education in the Commonwealth at a time when the local is developing a global perspective, and the global is feeling the assertive impingement of the resurgent local.

We might, in the process, even teach Mr. V how NOT to write single sentence paragraphs! Meanwhile, the non-functional demonstration solar-powered restroom on Beach Road remains a clear target of graffiti artists, but the tree that got watered while a sapling is still standing, though not for long. The saline content of the water table will eventually eat up the roots of my favored arbor.

"It was used for tax rebates?" Nah ("Oops, forgot that was the \$17.2 million portion that *did* show up on the books").

"It was used to buy parts for CUC?" Nah ("oops, forgot again, that fed money *can't* be appropriated").

"C'mon guys—think faster, it's almost Monday!" "Hey, I'm thinking as fast as I can, it wasn't supposed to be found out so soon!"

"It was put in a savings account for a rainy day?" ("Jeez – don't mention 'banks', somebody might actually start looking there!")

"The Feds only sent part of it—the rest will show up on the FY '09 books?" Nah.

"I know—if we can stall the investigation until after the election, that'll give us enough time to either explain it, cover it up or...disappear" yeah—maybe that'll work...

Well...? We're waiting... (sound of shoes tapping on floor)...

Dr. Thomas D. Arkle Jr.
San Jose, Tinian

Honoring our forefathers

In 1962 our forefathers decided to honor one of the CNMI's first doctors and named after him our first hospital in As Terlaje, now known as the Northern Marianas College. In 1986, a ribbon cutting ceremony took place at the new (supposedly the 21st century facility) CNMI hospital known as the Commonwealth Health Center. My point to our people of the CNMI is that we honored our forefather when they named the old hospital in As Terlaje as "Dr. Torres Hospital". Since the new hospital open, they practically abandoned the old hospital building and later established our CNMI's first college campus. The name Dr. Torres Hospital no longer exists.

Other buildings named after former village commissioners are San Vicente's former Head Start building, called "Prudencio Cabrala Memorial Building" (an abandoned building) and the "Fernando M. Benevente Memorial Building" in San Antonio (not properly maintained, name no longer appears on the building). I am sure there are other areas in the CNMI where this is happening and I won't be surprised if it is also happening in our neighboring islands of Rota and Tinian.

Why do these things happen? Have we forgotten or do we not care about our forefathers who had worked so hard in their lifetimes to make our CNMI today? To our leaders, please place honor where honor was placed in the first place.

Joseph M. Palacios
Dandan, Saipan

Satellite image and accompanying information are provided by the National Weather Service. For an updated weather forecast, visit the National Weather Service Guam Homepage: www.prh.noaa.gov/guam/

The Weather

5-Day Forecast for Saipan and Tinian

TODAY	TUESDAY	WEDNESDAY	THURSDAY	FRIDAY
Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Mostly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.	Partly cloudy with isolated showers.

▲ 88° ▾ 78°

▲ 88° ▾ 78°

▲ 80° ▾ 70°

▲ 80° ▾ 70°

▲ 80° ▾ 70°

Micronesia

Guam and Rota	Partly Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 76
Palau	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 73
Yap	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 78
Chuuk	Cloudy	▲ 81 ▾ 76
Pohnpei	Cloudy	▲ 89 ▾ 80
Kosrae	Cloudy	▲ 84 ▾ 77
Majuro	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 77

Around The Globe

Auckland	Mostly Sunny	▲ 51 ▾ 41
Beijing	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 68
Hong Kong	Thundershowers	▲ 91 ▾ 82
Honolulu	Cloudy	▲ 88 ▾ 75
London	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 70 ▾ 55
Los Angeles	Sunny	▲ 83 ▾ 64
Manila	Thunderstorms	▲ 87 ▾ 77
Melbourne	Showers	▲ 56 ▾ 46
Miami	Showers	▲ 90 ▾ 78
New York	Partly Sunny	▲ 82 ▾ 67
Osaka	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 76
Paris	Mostly Cloudy	▲ 78 ▾ 64
Pusan	Showers	▲ 82 ▾ 71
Rome	Sunny	▲ 86 ▾ 69
Salem	Partly Sunny	▲ 76 ▾ 50
San Francisco	Cloudy	▲ 77 ▾ 55
Seoul	Thundershowers	▲ 86 ▾ 73
Tokyo	Partly Sunny	▲ 88 ▾ 74
Washington, DC	Cloudy	▲ 86 ▾ 69

Tides

Sunrise/Sunset

Moonrise/Moonset

Today	5:54 AM	6:51 PM	Today	10:36 PM	10:20 AM
Tuesday	5:54 AM	6:51 PM	Tuesday	11:13 PM	11:08 AM
Wednesday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Wednesday	11:53 PM	11:59 AM
Thursday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Thursday		12:53 PM
Friday	5:55 AM	6:51 PM	Friday	12:37 AM	1:14 AM

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Corporate donations, volunteer work, promotions, granting of awards, team-building exercises, meetings and other activities by members of the business community.

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- Photos must have been taken in the last two months.
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FLIGHT SCHEDULE AS OF JULY 13, 2009

DEPARTURES

SAIPAN-ROTA (ROP)

C09597 11:50am 12:25pm 1, 7

ROTA (ROP)-GUAM

C09597 12:50pm 1:20pm 1, 7

SAIPAN-GUAM

C09317 4:20am 5:10am Daily

C09313 8:30am 9:20am Daily

C09597 11:50am 1:20pm 1, 7 via ROP

C09601 12:30pm 1:20pm 4, 5

C09603 3:30pm 4:20pm Daily

C09605 6:30pm 7:20pm Daily

C09599 9:30pm 10:20pm Daily

SAIPAN-NARITA (NRT)

NW99 6:05am 8:40am Daily

NW78 9:00am 10:05am Daily via NGO

NW75 3:50pm 6:25pm Daily

SAIPAN-Osaka (KIX)

OZ119 4:00am 6:40am 1, 4, 6

SAIPAN-NAGOYA (NGO)

NW78 9:00am 11:40am Daily

SAIPAN-BUSAN (PUS)

OZ608 3:20am 6:50am 1, 4, 5, 7

SAIPAN-SEOUL (ICN)

OZ604 2:20am 6:00am 1

OZ604 2:50am 6:30am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7

OZ119 4:00am 11:20am 1, 4, 6 via KIX

OZ606 3:30pm 7:00pm 2, 4, 6, 7

SAIPAN-GUANGZHOU (CAN)

CZ3008 3:30am 6:40am 2, 6

SAIPAN-MANILA

OZ604/701 2:20am 11:25am 1 via ICN

OZ604/701 2:50am 11:25am 2, 3, 4, 5, 6, 7 via ICN

OZ702/603 12:45pm 1:40am+1 1, 2, 3, 4, 5, 6 via ICN

C09317/893 4:30am 8:50am 7 via GUM

C09603/933 3:30pm 8:40pm Daily via GUM

PR110/C09596 10:00pm 7:50am+1 1, 3, 5, 6, 7 via GUM

C0934/9596 10:55pm 7:50am+1 Daily via GUM

OZ704/605 11:50pm 2:30pm+1 2, 4, 6, 7 via ICN

SAIPAN-HONG KONG

OZ604/721 2:20am 11:45am 1 via ICN

OZ604/721 2:50am 11:45am 2, 3

Business

Obama rejects 2nd stimulus: Give recovery time

By MATT APUZZO
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

WASHINGTON (AP) — President Barack Obama said Saturday the \$787 billion stimulus program must be given a chance to work before consideration is given to a second such jolt for the ailing economy.

Obama acknowledged in his weekly radio and Internet address that people are getting nervous about continuing high job-



NEW PASSPORT

In this May 28, 2009 photo, a new "enhanced" United States passport lies, at left, beside an expired pierced passport at an Immigration & Family Law business downtown in Los Angeles. On June 1, it became mandatory for Americans entering the United States by land or sea from Canada, Mexico, Bermuda and the Caribbean to present identity documents embedded with RFID tags, though conventional passports remain valid until they expire. The new passport contains a radio frequency identification chip, indicated by the small graphic below the words "United States of America."

lessness—the unemployment rate hit 9.5 percent in June—but said reversing payroll losses takes time. He asked Americans to be as patient as possible.

Republicans have labeled the \$787 billion stimulus a failure. Both Obama and Vice President Joe Biden have argued that the bulk of the money from the stimulus program is still being disbursed and that it already has saved many jobs.

Obama criticized Republicans for opposing the stimulus but offering few alternatives to the worst recession since the Great Depression of the 1930s. And he rejected talk of a second stimulus, an idea that has been discussed by Democ-

rats and even famed investor Warren Buffett.

"We must let it work the way it's supposed to, with the understanding that in any recession, unemployment tends to recover more slowly than other measures of economic activity," Obama, who is visiting Ghana on Saturday, said in his recorded message.

The stimulus included \$288 billion in tax cuts, dramatic increases in spending on Medicaid health care coverage for the poor, about \$48 billion in highway and bridge construction and billions more to boost energy efficiency, shore up state budgets and improve schools.

Administration considers help for small business

been announced.

One idea under consideration is using a program that helps banks lend to small businesses at low rates.

"This idea, among many others, has been discussed, but nothing is imminent," said White House spokesman Matthew Vogel. "The administration is continually in policy discussion focused on how we can best serve the taxpayers by speeding along economic recovery."

Under one approach being examined, the government would make working capital available by having the government help underwrite loans to small businesses. Many small businesses have been especially hurt in the current financial crisis because banks have pulled long-standing credit lines and made it difficult for small firms to get new loans.

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FIRST NOTICE
LAST DATE TO FILE AUGUST 27, 2009
PLACE SEIZED, SEIZED FROM, DATE SEIZED

DISTRICT OF NORTHERN MARIANA ISLANDS
09-DEA-517596, 255 Kilograms of Potassium Permanganate
(AC/2009/0820/5614), Saipan, MP, U.S. CNMI Corporation, 04/30/09

[The property listed above is NOT for sale. The DEA DOES NOT sell forfeited property and the DEA DOES NOT have information on property for sale.]

BUSINESS BRIEFS

Iconic Hawaii hotel to reopen under new union deal

HONOLULU (AP) — Despite a dour economy and a Hawaii tourism industry that is in its roughest patch ever, four dozen employees of the iconic Ilikai hotel won their jobs back Friday when their labor union and the property's new owner inked a surprise deal. The Y-shaped, 30-story Ilikai was considered Hawaii's first luxury high-rise when it opened in 1964, and it gained more prominence when it was featured in the opening sequence of the hit TV series "Hawaii Five-0." The pact will lead to the hotel's reopening sometime soon—though neither the local UNITE HERE union nor the Waikiki hotel's owner, New York City-based iStar Financial Inc., are saying when.

Investors: 2Q revenue a sign of economic health

NEW YORK (AP) — Investors want to see some new math in companies' quarterly reports. No longer content with an economy that's limping toward recovery, the stock market is looking for signs that business improved in the second quarter or at least will in the coming months. And investors will measure that by the revenue figures companies put up as they issue earnings reports during the next four weeks. Stocks punched higher in March when a handful of companies said profits for the first three months of the

year wouldn't be as dismal as feared. But many businesses achieved better-than-expected results by slashing costs, including payrolls. Now Wall Street wants to see signs that companies are selling more goods and services—for the health of the corporations themselves and for the overall economy.

CEO vows better performance as GM exits bankruptcy

DETROIT (AP) — General Motors completed an unusually quick exit from bankruptcy protection on Friday with ambitions of making money and building cars people are eager to buy. Once the world's largest and most powerful automaker, new GM is now leaner, cleansed of massive debt and burdensome contracts that would have sunk it without federal loans. At a news conference, CEO Fritz Henderson said the revamped automaker will be faster and more responsive to customers than the old one. It will generate cash and repay billions in government loans ahead of a 2015 deadline. The new company will build more cars and trucks that consumers want and launch them faster than in the past, the CEO said. GM also announced a partnership with eBay Inc. to test auctioning vehicles online.

Autopsy conducted on Australian shot in Indonesia

JAKARTA, Indonesia (AP)

—A 40-member team of police and forensics specialists arrived Sunday to investigate the deadly shooting of an Australian employee of U.S. mining giant Freeport in restive Papua province, officials said. Indonesian doctors conducted a five-hour autopsy on the body, a doctor said, giving no details. Saturday's shooting—which police said may have been the work of a sniper—happened near the Grasberg site, one of the world's largest open-pit mines. Papua, a desperately poor and militarized province on Indonesia's easternmost tip, is home to separatist rebels who denounce PT Freeport as a symbol of Jakarta's rule. A surge in attacks in recent months has left several people dead.

CIT Group said to hire bankruptcy adviser

NEW YORK (AP) — CIT Group Inc. is working with a premier bankruptcy firm as the troubled commercial lender awaits word on whether it will receive funds from a federal program designed to help banks, the company confirmed Saturday. The New York-based company has engaged Skadden, Arps, Slate, Meagher & Flom LLP, which has a prominent bankruptcy practice. The hiring was first reported in The Wall Street Journal Saturday. However, according to the company CIT has worked with Skadden for "several years."

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BRUCE L. MAILMAN is a member of the American Immigration Lawyers Association and has provided immigration services in the CNMI since 1989

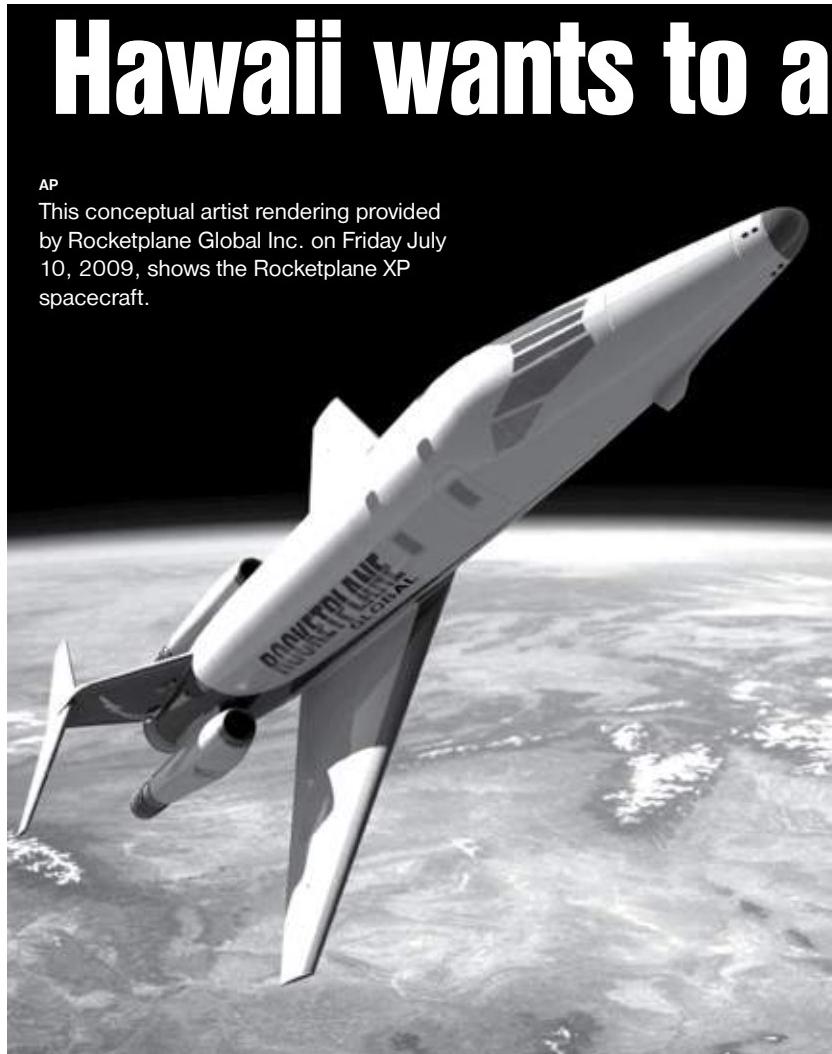
MAYA B. KARA is a former CNMI Acting Attorney General, Chief Legislative Counsel, Governor's and Lt. Governor's Legal Counsel and DOL Hearing Officer

Nation

Hawaii wants to add space travel to attractions

AP

This conceptual artist rendering provided by Rocketplane Global Inc. on Friday July 10, 2009, shows the Rocketplane XP spacecraft.



By MARK NIesse
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

HONOLULU (AP)—Tourists coming to Hawaii for high-end getaways could someday be launched from the sand to the stars, taking island-hopping to new heights.

Hawaii could even be the first state where space travelers use rocket planes to get from one place to another. Rather than launching and landing in the same spot, planners envision the planes taking off in one place, traveling through space, then coming down in another, going from the Big Island to Oahu. Within a decade, space travelers could island hop from Hawaii to Japan in 45 minutes.

And promoters promise a unique perspective during the Hawaii flight.

"Flying down the Hawaii island chain, it's a completely different view of the planet than you'll see when you launch from landlocked states," said Chuck Lauer, vice president of business development for Oklahoma City-based Rocketplane Global. "It's the blue planet view of the world."

Hawaii's tourism leaders recognize

the potential for attracting visitors with the promise of space travel, but it's unclear whether Gov. Linda Lingle will release the licensing money at a time when the state is facing big budget problems and possible government employee layoffs. A new law authorizes the state to spend \$500,000 to apply for a spaceport license from the federal government, which is the first step toward allowing commercial space travel from the islands.

Lingle has indicated she will either sign the legislation this month or let it become law without her signature. But she has the authority to withhold the money even after the bill becomes law.

If the plan goes forward, tourists would pay \$200,000 for a weeklong package including spaceflight training, resort accommodations and short test

flights to simulate weightlessness.

At the vacation's finale, five voyagers would embark on a horizontal takeoff aboard a special rocket plane, climb to 40,000 feet before rockets fire, accelerate to 3,500 mph, coast for a few minutes of weightlessness 62 miles above the Earth, flip over and then return to ground.

Jim Crisafulli, the state's director of aerospace development, is confident many people would come to Hawaii to fly to space. "They wouldn't bat an eye at spending that amount of money to fly to space," he said. "It's going to be a soul-energizing experience."

Hawaii could become the eighth state granted a spaceport license. The process will take about three years, meaning space flights wouldn't start before 2012.

ACROSS THE NATION

AP sources: Cheney told CIA not to discuss program

WASHINGTON (AP)—Former Vice President Dick Cheney directed the CIA eight years ago not to inform Congress about a nascent counterterrorism program that CIA Director Leon Panetta terminated in June, officials with direct knowledge of the matter said Saturday. Subsequent CIA directors did not inform Congress because the intelligence-gathering effort had not developed to the point that they believed merited a congressional briefing, said a former intelligence official and another government official familiar with Panetta's June 24 briefing to the House and Senate Intelligence committees. Panetta did not agree. Upon learning of the program June 23 from within the CIA, Panetta terminated it and the next day called an emergency meeting with the House and Senate Intelligence committees to inform them of the program and that it was canceled.

cambia County Sheriff David Morgan said in a news conference that the department is questioning two persons of interest but they are not in custody. He said tips from the public led to the discovery of a red van Saturday morning that was likely the same one used in the crime and that helped authorities find the people they are questioning. Byrd and Melanie Billings of Beulah, a rural area west of Pensacola near the Alabama border, were found shot dead in their home Thursday evening. The couple, known for their large family of adopted children, had an extensive surveillance system in the house and Morgan said authorities have reviewed the tapes repeatedly.

Lightning delays space shuttle Endeavour launch

CAPE CANAVERAL, Fla. (AP)—NASA scrubbed space shuttle Endeavour's Saturday evening launch after lightning struck at least 11 times near the seaside launch pad. NASA technicians found no damage after an electrical storm Friday afternoon, but said they will need at least another day to check critical systems. A mission management team plans to meet early Sunday to determine if all the testing has been completed and whether to fuel Endeavour for a possible Sunday evening launch. Liftoff would be at 7:13 p.m. if NASA attempts to launch Sunday.

Hawaii prepares for Japanese royal visit

HONOLULU (AP)—Flower lei-wearing Hawaiian cowboys and a master hula teacher will be among those welcoming the Japanese emperor and empress to Hawaii next week. Emperor Akihito and Empress Michiko are touring the islands for the first time in 15 years on their way home from a trip to Canada. They're due to arrive Tuesday for a three-day stay on Oahu and the Big Island. Hawaii, home to a large, vibrant Japanese-American community, has hosted the royal couple several times over the past five decades. Most recently they visited in 1994. Wayne Ishihara, president of the Honolulu Japanese Chamber of Commerce, said the visit will help strengthen the already firm bond between Japan and the Japanese community in Hawaii.

AP source: Holder considering torture probe

WASHINGTON (AP)—Attorney General Eric Holder is considering whether to appoint a criminal prosecutor to investigate the Bush administration's interrogation practices, a controversial move that would run counter to President Barack Obama's wishes to leave the issue in the past.

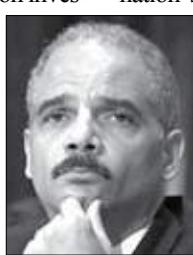
Holder plans to make a final decision within the next few weeks, a Justice Department official told The Associated Press on Saturday night. The official spoke on the condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak on a pending matter.

Justice Department spokesman Matt

Miller said Holder planned to "follow the facts and the law."

"We have made no decisions on investigations or prosecutions, including whether to appoint a prosecutor to conduct further inquiry," he said. "As the attorney general has made clear, it would be unfair to prosecute any official who acted in good faith based on legal guidance from the Justice Department."

A move to appoint a prosecutor is certain to stir partisan bickering that could create a distraction to Obama's efforts to push health care and energy re-



Holder

form. Obama has repeatedly expressed reluctance to having a probe, saying the nation should be "looking forward and not backwards" when it came to Bush-era abuses.

Newsweek magazine, which first reported the development on Saturday, said Holder was aware of the political implications of having a probe and preferred not to create unnecessary trouble for the White House. Still, the attorney general was troubled by what he learned in reports about the treatment of prisoners at the CIA's "black sites."

Body found at NY building where woman went missing

NEW YORK (AP)—A female body was found stuffed inside an air-conditioning duct Saturday in a Manhattan skyscraper where a cleaning woman disappeared four days ago.

Police discovered the corpse, hidden in a utility room duct, just as they began searching the 26-story tower for 46-year-old Eridania Rodriguez.

The remains had not been officially identified as of late Saturday, but police spokesman Paul Browne said investigators presumed the body was that of Rodriguez, who had been missing since Tuesday night.

A medical examiner was on the scene trying to confirm the find and determine how the woman died. Authorities believe she was murdered but haven't identified a suspect. They have questioned some people who work in the building.

"We just want answers," Rodriguez' brother, professional bodybuilder Victor Martinez, told WNYW-TV.

The body was recovered from the duct late Saturday.

For days, workers at 2 Rector Street wondered how a missing persons case like this was possible in their building.

Like most office towers in the finan-

cial district, this one, near the World Trade Center reconstruction site, got enhanced security after the Sept. 11, 2001 attacks.

Cameras cover every exit. Guards



An unidentified body is removed from a Manhattan skyscraper Saturday, July 11, 2009, in New York.

alarmed the alarm, but investigators found nothing. They came back in the following days, sure that Rodriguez couldn't have walked out alive. A sour odor tipped off police to the location of the body.

Relatives go to Ill. cemetery looking for answers

ALSIP, Ill. (AP)—A constant stream of relatives hoping to find their loved ones showed up Saturday as officials exhumed one grave in a cemetery where four former employees are accused of digging up and dumping hundreds of bodies in a scheme to resell plots. One body was found in the exhumed grave at the historic black cemetery, Cook County Sheriff Tom Dart said, despite an earlier report that two bodies were there. The former workers also have been accused of burying some bodies in shared graves. Authorities closed Burr Oak Cemetery on Friday and declared all of its 150 acres a crime scene after Dart found bones while walking on the site. On Saturday, families carrying photos and old crumpled funeral programs stood in snaking lines to talk to officials. Some cried, others were angry and many were stoic.

Fla. officials find van in panhandle slaying

PENSACOLA, Fla. (AP)—Florida law enforcement officials said Saturday that the people who killed a couple in their Panhandle home last week as their children slept appeared experienced. Es-

Asia

Italian freed in Philippines had feared beheading



By JIM GOMEZ
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

MANILA, Philippines (AP)—Al-Qaida-linked militants freed an Italian Red Cross worker

Italian Red Cross worker Eugenio Vagni, right, waves upon arriving at Villamor Air Force base in Manila hours after his release from six months of captivity by Al-Qaida-linked militants in the volatile island of Jolo in the southern Philippines Sunday July 12, 2009. At center is Vagni's wife Kwan and daughter Leticia. Behind is Philippine Marine Maj. Gen. Juancho Sabban.

AP

Sunday from six months of jungle captivity in the southern Philippines, officials said. The 62-year old said he was treated well but constantly feared being beheaded.

Eugenio Vagni appeared to be in good health but tired as Abu Sayyaf gunmen handed him over to a provincial vice governor shortly after midnight in jungle near Maimbung township on southern Jolo Island, officials said.

Vagni embraced military officers at a Jolo military camp, muttering "Thank you" repeatedly, said marine

Col. Eugenio Clemen.

In Vatican City, Pope Benedict XVI felt relieved that the abduction was over and took Vagni's release as a "sign of hope and of faith," Vatican spokesman the Rev. Federico Lombardi was quoted as saying by the Italian news agency ANSA.

Vagni said he was treated well by his Abu Sayyaf captors, who called him "Apo," a local term of respect for the elderly. He lost about 44 pounds (20 kilograms) and was fed mostly rice and fish. The militants helped treat his cholera and carried his back-

pack when he got tired, but that did not ease his constant fear of being beheaded.

Vagni told ABS-CBN network that he often imagined seeing "my head in a big basket."

TV footage showed Vagni, who grew a beard, smiling and waving to well-wishers. "I love them all," Vagni said.

"I'm very elated that the ordeal is over for Vagni," said Sen. Richard Gordon, who heads the Philippine Red Cross. "It's been six months of constant fear of gunbattles, of being ordered around, of being held away from his wife and children."

China city tense but calm one week after riots

URUMQI, China (AP)—The center of the riot-hit city of Urumqi was tense but calm Sunday, one week after ethnic fighting began that left 184 people dead and alarmed China's communist leaders.

Armed paramilitary police were on guard in People's Square, the site of the June 5 protest by minority Uighurs that escalated into deadly attacks on Han Chinese, including people who were pulled off buses and beaten. More than 1,000 were hurt in the violence.

The government says most of the dead were from the Han Chinese majority, but the largely Muslim Uighurs suspect that many more of their people died.

The official Xinhua News Agency has cited provincial officials as saying 137 victims were Han while 46 were Uighurs and one was a Hui, another Muslim group.

Xinhua also reported an oil tank blast Sunday morning at a chemical plant in the western city, but it was not clear if the

explosion was connected to the ethnic violence. It said the blast was triggered by a fire and that there no casualties.

The Urumqi Public Security Bureau published a notice late Saturday banning illegal assemblies and demonstrations.

The notice said the situation was "basically under control" but that there was "still sporadic illegal assemblies and demonstrations in some places," Xinhua reported.

Some roads to the main market were still closed Sun-

day, and the market remained guarded by armed military police. An officer was teaching them simple greetings in the Uighur language.

Officials have yet to make public key details about the riots and what happened next, including how much force police used to re-impose order. Officials and Xinhua have not said whether all the victims were killed Sunday or in later days, when vigilante mobs ran through the city with bricks, clubs and cleavers.

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Amnesty collections will start at 8am and end at 4pm at all sites.

ASIAN BRIEFS

Police: Ambush kills 5 police in NW Pakistan

PESHAWAR, Pakistan (AP)—Police say gunmen in northwestern Pakistan have killed 5 police and a forestry officer. The security officials had gone to a forested area in the Mansehra district after getting a report of a bullet-riddled body. Police officer Rashid Khan said unknown gunmen targeted the contingent late Saturday, killing the police and an accompanying forestry officer and later set fire to the police van. A bullet-riddled body of an unknown man also was found at the scene. No group has claimed responsibility but Taliban militants in the northwest have frequently targeted police.

3 killed, 16 injured in New Delhi bridge collapse

NEW DELHI (AP)—Police say a bridge under construction in New Delhi has collapsed, killing three people and injuring 16 others. Police spokesman Mohammed Iqbal said the accident happened Sunday morning as workers lifted heavy concrete slabs for the bridge, part of the city's new metro rail system. The slabs crashed to the ground. Those killed and injured were laborers working on the bridge. Iqbal says rescue crews are still working to see if any others are trapped under the rubble. The cause of the accident was not yet known.

Japan's PM faces crucial test in Tokyo poll

TOKYO (AP)—Japan's embattled Prime Minister Taro Aso faces a crucial test in a Tokyo municipal election Sunday,

World

In personal terms, Obama hails Africa's promise



President Barack Obama, first lady Michelle Obama, daughters Sasha, and Malia, obscured, walk past traditional dancers as they participate in a departure ceremony at the airport in Accra, Ghana, Saturday, July 11, 2009.

By BEN FELLER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

ACCRA, Ghana (AP)—America's president and Africa's son, Barack Obama dashed with pride onto the continent of his ancestors Saturday, chal-

lenging its people to shed corruption and conflict in favor of peace. Campaigning to all of Africa, he said "Yes you can."

"I say this knowing full well the tragic past that has sometimes haunted this part of the world," Obama told a riveted Ghanaian Parliament. "I have

the blood of Africa within me."

In the faces of those who lined the streets and in many of Obama's own words, this trip was personal. Beyond his message, the story was his presence—the first black U.S. president coming to poor, proud, predominantly black sub-Saharan

Iraq bombings kill 8 in capital, northern village

BAGHDAD (AP)—A car bomb exploded in an alley Saturday in a village in northern Iraq, killing at least four people, wounding others and destroying eight homes, police said. Another six people died in bombings in Baghdad.

Thirty-eight people were wounded and several shops and cars were also damaged in the 3 p.m. explosion in the northern village of Kugjeli, according to a police officer in Nineveh Province, who spoke on condition of anonymity because he was not authorized to speak to journalists.

Most of the victims were inside their homes when the bomb exploded near

5 hurt in latest Pamplona bull run

PAMPLONA, Spain (AP)—A packed running of the bulls swollen by weekend crowds at Spain's San Fermin festival left five people with minor injuries Saturday, but there were no goring the day after the first fatality for 14 years.

One man had a lucky escape when he confronted a lone bull that had broken away from the pack after a fall but he was only rolled on the ground and not caught by its horns.

He was taken to Navarra Hospital with a head injury and identified by city authorities in a statement only as a 26-year-old Irishman, Alan C.H.

The fifth bull run in the eight-day San Fermin feast took place the day after a 27-year-old man was gored to death, the first fatality since 1995.

Four other people were hospitalized

the main street of the predominantly Shiite village, about five kilometers (three miles) east of the city of Mosul.

In the Baghdad attack, a bomb was placed at the gate of a billiards hall in the central district of Karrada. Four civilians died and 15 were injured, all of them youths in the hall, a police officer and a hospital medic said. Both spoke on condition of anonymity because they were not authorized to speak to the media.

A bomb in the same area wounded four police on patrol.

In southwest Baghdad, a bomb planted on a car killed two people,

including a junior Cabinet official, and injured 11 others, including the wife and child of the official, police and hospital officials said.

Violence remains at low levels in Iraq compared with previous years, but bombings continue to kill scores of people. The attacks have raised concerns as the U.S. military draws down troop numbers and Iraq prepares for parliamentary elections on Jan. 30.

U.S. combat troops in Iraq completed a withdrawal from urban areas to outlying bases at the end of last month, ahead of a planned pullout by all American forces by the end of 2011.



A reveler is tossed by a young calf during the fifth day of the running of the bulls at the San Fermin Fiesta in Pamplona, northern Spain, Saturday, July 11, 2009.

Africa for his first time in office.

The emotional touchstone of his visit: a tour of Cape Coast Castle, the cannon-lined fortress where slaves were kept in squalid dungeons, then shipped in chains to America through a "Door of No Return" that opens to the sea.

Obama absorbed the experience with his wife, Michelle, and their girls, Sasha and Malia.

"I'll never forget the image of my two young daughters, the descendants of Africans and African-Americans, walking through those doors of no return but then walking back (through) those doors," he said later at a grand departure ceremony. "It was a remarkable reminder that, while the future is unknowable, the winds always blow in the direction of human progress." Ghanaians lined up on the tarmac lingered for a time even after Air Force One dis-

appeared into the nighttime sky. Obama arrived back in the U.S. early Sunday.

The White House said Obama held no big public events in Accra, a city frenzied to see him, because Obama wanted to put the light on Africa, not himself. But reality proved otherwise.

Obama billboards dotted the roads. Women wore dresses made of cloth bearing his image. Tribal chiefs, lawmakers, church leaders, street vendors—to them, it felt like history.

"All Ghanaians want to see you," lamented Ghana's president, John Atta Mills, before feting Obama to a breakfast banquet of hundreds of guests at the coastal presidential castle.

To their disappointment, most people did not see him. The lack of open events and the heavy security kept many in this West African nation away from Obama. They watched him on TV.

WORLD BRIEFS

Gunmen boldly attack federal forces in Mexico

MORELIA, Mexico (AP)—Gunmen boldly attacked federal forces across the western state of Michoacan on Saturday, killing five federal agents and two soldiers after the capture of a suspected drug cartel operative. Ten other federal agents were wounded in the ambushes. Convoys of heavily armed gunmen tossed grenades and opened fire on police stations in the state capital of Morelia and in five other cities between 5 a.m. and 9 a.m. (6 a.m.-10 a.m. EDT, 1000-1300 GMT) Saturday. Assailants also shot up a hotel where federal agents were staying in Apatzingan, according to the state attorney general's office. The attacks were among the boldest frontal offenses carried out against the government.

Hondurans fear prolonged negotiations

TEGUCIGALPA, Honduras (AP)—Supporters of ousted President Manuel Zelaya paid tribute Saturday to a teenager killed during protests and expressed fear the interim government will drag out negotiations to resolve the crisis so it can remain in power through November elections. But a delegate of de facto President Roberto Micheletti who participated in the talks in Costa Rica on Friday, said his side has not ruled out the possibility of early elections as a way out of the conflict. The only consensus reached between representatives of Zelaya and Micheletti during a second round of negotiations on Friday was that they would meet again—fueling concern the crisis could continue for months. No date was set for future negotiations.

Haitian ferry capsizes; at least 5 people dead

PORT-AU-PRINCE, Haiti (AP)—A ferry capsized off Haiti's southern coast Saturday morning, killing at least five people. Authorities said it wasn't clear how many people were on board, but as many as two dozen could be missing. Officials had initially said six people were known dead, but later lowered the figure. Civil protection official Jean-Michel Sabat said the search was suspended late

Saturday afternoon and will resume Sunday. He said the boat overturned en route from Anse a Pitre, near the border with the Dominican Republic, to the southern peninsula city of Jacmel. Twenty-two survivors were rescued. Sabat said rough estimates indicated that perhaps as many as 60 people were aboard the vessel.

Peru's leader shakes up his Cabinet amid protests

LIMA, Peru (AP)—President Alan Garcia shuffled his Cabinet on Saturday following months of protests, replacing seven of 16 ministers and naming a new chief—the third person to hold the post in nine months. Javier Velasquez, a lawyer who has served as a congressman for 14 years for Garcia's APRA party, was sworn in as Cabinet secretary to replace Yehude Simon, who resigned Wednesday. Simon had drawn strong criticism for the government's handling of months of protests by Indians over moves to open the Amazon to oil and other development. A police crackdown on a protest road-block triggered violence that killed at least 33 people on June 5.

Mass funeral for Srebrenica massacre victims

SREBRENICA, Bosnia-Herzegovina (AP)—Tens of thousands of Bosnian Muslims prayed for the dead in Srebrenica and buried hundreds more recovered bodies Saturday on the 14th anniversary of Europe's worst massacre since World War II. Family members laid to rest the remains of 534 victims, removed recently from mass graves, next to the existing 3,297 graves at the Srebrenica-Potocari memorial center. Visitors and dignitaries prayed for the 8,100 Muslim men and boys who were killed in Srebrenica over several days in 1995 when Serb forces overran the town. U.S. Ambassador to Bosnia Charles English said President Barack Obama has called the Srebrenica slaughter "a stain in our collective consciousness," and that the world has to ask itself how this genocide could have happened.

Health & Fitness

By MIKE STOBBE
AP MEDICAL WRITER

ATLANTA(AP)— Some swine flu cases in Michigan are raising questions about obesity's role in why some people with infections become seriously ill.

A high proportion of those who have gotten severely ill from swine flu have been obese or extremely obese, but health officials have said that might be due to the fact that heavy people tend to have asthma and other conditions that make them more susceptible. Obesity alone has never been seen as a risk factor for seasonal flu.

But in a report released Friday, health officials detailed the cases of 10 Michigan patients who were very sick from swine flu in late May and early June and ended up at a specialized hospital in Ann Arbor. Three of them died.

Nine of the 10 were either obese or extremely obese. Only three of the 10 had other health problems. Two of the three that died had no other health conditions.

This hardly settles the question of whether obesity is its own risk factor for swine flu. It's possible the patients had undiagnosed heart problems or other unidentified conditions.

Still the finding was striking, investigators acknowledged.

Also remarkable were that five of the patients developed blood clots in their lungs, and six had kidney failure. Those complications have been seen in some swine flu patients before, but not usually in such a high proportion.

"Clinicians need to be aware that severe complications can occur in patients with the novel H1N1 virus, particularly in extremely obese patients," said Dr. Tim Uyeki, a flu expert at the Centers for Disease Control and Prevention.

Uyeki was a co-author of the report, released by a CDC publication, Morbidity and Mortality Weekly Report.

By KATHLEEN MEGAN
(C) 2009, THE HARTFORD COURANT

Women appear to have a tougher time quitting smoking than men, according to researchers at Women's Health Research at Yale.

While the percentage of men who have given up cigarettes between 1965 and 2006 was 54.5 percent, the rate of decline among women was less steep, at 47.5 percent.

Consequently, the gap in the percentages of male and female smokers has narrowed. In 1965, slightly more than half of all men smoked, while about a third of women did. Today, 23.3 percent of men smoke, compared with 18.6 percent of women.

We talked to Carolyn Mazure, a professor of psychiatry and director of the research program, about why women are not kicking the habit at the same rate as men.

Question: So what does the research show?

Answer: Well, the first thing I want



A girl with swine flu symptoms waits for medical attention at a hospital in Buenos Aires, Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

Swine flu shots at school: Bracing for fall return

WASHINGTON (AP)—U.S. swine flu vaccinations could begin in October with children among the first in line - at their local schools - the Obama administration said Thursday as the president and his Cabinet urged states to figure out now how they'll tackle the virus' all-but-certain resurgence.

"We may end up averting a crisis. That's our hope," said President Barack Obama, who took time away from the G-8 summit in Italy to telephone another summit back home - the 500 state and local health officials meeting to prepare for swine flu's fall threat.

No final decision has been made on whether to vaccinate Americans, Health and Human Services Secretary Kathleen Sebelius stressed. That depends largely on

studies with experimental batches that are set to start the first week of August - to see if they're safe and seem to work and to learn whether they require one or two doses.



A child wears a mask as a precaution against swine flu outside a hospital in Buenos Aires, Wednesday, July 8, 2009.

But if all goes well, the federal government will buy vaccine from manufacturers and share it for free among the states, which must then "try and get

this in the arms of the targeted population as soon as possible," Sebelius said.

First in line probably will be school-age children, young adults with risky conditions such as asthma, pregnant women and health workers, she said. Unlike regular winter flu, the swine flu seems more dangerous to these groups than to older people.

"Schools are natural places" to offer those vaccines, Education Secretary Arne Duncan said.

Go home and get schools, mayors and other community leaders to spread that message, Sebelius said.

"The last thing we want is millions of parents to be surprised" the day the get-your-kid-vaccinated-at-school note comes home, she said.

Schools do occasionally team up

ON THE NET

CDC: <http://www.cdc.gov>

Also on Friday, the CDC said the number of U.S. swine flu cases has surpassed 37,000 and deaths have risen to 211.

The numbers rose from the 170 deaths and nearly 34,000 confirmed and suspected swine flu cases reported last week.

Those are lab-confirmed and probable infections. CDC officials believe those cases - which sought treatment and underwent testing - are just the tip of the iceberg. They estimate more than 1 million Americans have been infected with the virus so far, though many probably had only a mild illness.

Swine flu is the predominant flu type circulating currently, with nine states reporting widespread cases, down from 10 a week ago.

The pandemic was first identified in California in April. Since then a total of more than 94,000 cases have been reported in more than 100 countries, according to the World Health Organization.

with local health officials for special flu vaccination clinics, but it's not common. More than 140 schools around the country scheduled flu vaccination days last fall, some providing free vaccine. Some vaccinated only students bearing parent consent forms; others opened their doors to entire families.

It will be a confusing fall, Sebelius acknowledged. Doctors' offices, clinics and even grocery stores will be in the midst of dispensing 100 million-plus doses of regular winter flu vaccine - and the swine flu vaccine, which will roll out slowly, will require at least one completely separate inoculation.

"We know a mass vaccination program of even modest scale will involve extraordinary effort on your part," Sebelius told state health workers.

She also announced \$350 million in grants to help states prepare, money to be used partly to brace hospitals for a surge of demand from the truly sick and the well-but-worried.

ever cessation program you undertake. ... The main concept is to include some form of exercise and support. And the exercise should be something that is manageable and really fits into your day.

Q: Does the menstrual cycle have any effect on attempts to quit smoking?

A: We tell women to think about the time within their menstrual cycle that is most difficult personally and advise them not to quit during that time because you are likely to have a harder time resisting cigarettes during that time. In addition, before you quit, prepare for that time in your cycle. What are you going to do when you feel badly? Call a (quit smoking hot line), take a walk, you have to have a plan.

Q: Do you think there should be special cessation programs for women?

A: I think in general we need to integrate the care for women into the mainstream of health care, but importantly, we have to be gender-sensitive in terms of what works for women and what works for men.

Smoking cessation harder for women, research finds

to say is that smoking remains a serious public health issue. Smoking is the leading cause of preventable death and illness in the U.S. Those deaths and morbid occurrences are from cancers, respiratory illness, cardiovascular disease.

Q: And why is it harder for women to quit smoking?

A: It appears as though when men quit smoking, the most prominent symptoms of withdrawal are biological symptoms of craving.

However, we find women are more likely to use cigarettes to manage moods, to deal with stress and to control weight. In other words, women are smoking for different reasons, and if you're not helping with those particular reasons for smoking in your cessation treatment, you wouldn't necessarily expect your treatment to work.

A good example is the nicotine patch, which often is considered the first line

of treatment for smoking. The research data on the nicotine patch suggest that women do less well quitting smoking when using the patch than men do, probably because it targets symptoms of craving rather than the symptoms that are more prominent for women.

So this begins to make an argument for gender-specific approaches to smoking cessation. ... With the medication Zyban (the generic is bupropion), it appears that women do as well in quitting when using this treatment as men do. ... Zyban can help with mood symptoms. It was originally developed as an antidepressant drug, Wellbutrin. That's an important part of the story in that we do think there is a relationship between depressed mood and smoking.

Q: Are women moodier than men or less good at managing stress?

A: I wouldn't say that at all, but we clearly know that the rates of depression are higher in women than in

men, not only in this country but in the world.

We find stress a pathway to depression in both men and women, although stress appears to be a more potent predictor of depression in women than men. Knowing that, we can understand how women would be attempting to use a variety of strategies to handle stress, including smoking. Nicotine can help someone reduce anxiety and modulate mood. It does have transient positive effects. But those positive effects are not worth the long-term health risk by any measure.

Q: Cigarette smoking does affect weight, right?

A: Yes, it can. When people quit smoking, it's not uncommon to gain a few pounds. Often this is a deterrent, particularly among women.

You have to deal with the fact that you may gain some weight and prepare for that and really factor that into what-

Life & Style

'Potter' cast reflects on a childhood at Hogwarts

By JAKE COYLE
AP ENTERTAINMENT WRITER

NEW YORK (AP)—When the "Harry Potter" film series is completed, its three young stars—Daniel Radcliffe, Emma Watson and Rupert Grint—will have inhabited J.K. Rowling's universe for half their lives.

Radcliffe, who is now 19, was 11 when he was cast as the boy wizard for the series' 2001 debut. Watson, now 19, was 10 when she auditioned for the whip-smart Hermione Granger. Grint, the eldest of the trio, is 20.

"I've probably been Ron as long as I've been Rupert," says Grint, who plays Ron Weasley, the ginger-haired, perpetually hungry friend of Harry and Hermione.

The cast and crew have taken a break from filming Rowling's last "Potter" book—to be spread out in two films—to publicize the series' sixth installment, "Harry Potter and the Half-Blood Prince," which arrives in theaters Wednesday.

Early reviews of the movie, the second one directed by David Yates, have been positive; both Variety and The Associated Press suggested it was the best "Potter" film yet. The movies have become progressively more complex, darker and realistic—even amid the fantasy world of Hogwarts School of Witchcraft and Wizardry.

As the films have matured, so has the cast.

More so than any other installment,

myself over it. I mean, I was young. I can't be held accountable for the performance I gave in the first two films: I was 11 and 12. I wasn't like Dakota Fanning ... who could seemingly just do it. It was very much a child's performance."

Such awareness is common for Radcliffe, who goes by "Dan." Shy as a child, he has grown into a quick-witted, animated 19-year-old who relishes frantic chatter about indie music, the behind-the-scenes aspects of filmmaking and his burgeoning love of acting. Michael Gambon, the award-winning British stage and screen actor who plays Hogwarts headmaster Dumbledore, says, "He's not a boy anymore. ... You can see it in his face."

The many lauded Brit actors of the "Potter" films have influenced Radcliffe—perhaps none more than Gary Oldman, who played Sirius



In this 2001 file photo originally released by Warner Bros., Daniel Radcliffe, who plays the part of Harry Potter, is shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Sorcerer's Stone."

active imagination, which he attributes to being an only child, as his greatest asset as an actor.

"I would have always wound up in the film industry somehow, probably as an assistant director or something like that. It just so happened that it turned out this way," he says. "I want to be somebody who works with the crew rather than for himself."

Since then, his progress has been apparent with each new "Potter" film—"a biannual review," Radcliffe calls it. He has begun moving away from Harry Potter, including a hilarious cameo in Ricky Gervais' TV series "Extras," and a well-reviewed performance in a revival of Peter Shaffer's "Equus," which ran in London in 2007 and on Broadway in 2008. Radcliffe played a deranged stable boy who completely disrobes—a scene much written about media.

Radcliffe counts his last year as both his "biggest leap" and an "overwhelming blitzkrieg of camera flashes."

The soft-spoken Yates—who is directing the final two films, to be released by Warner Bros. in November 2010 and summer 2011—is credited with helping the young cast mature.

"They're getting more experience outside of the film set and they're bringing that to the floor," he says. "People are acknowledging it for 'Half-Blood Prince'—but you haven't seen anything yet."

Watson has a hard time recalling the beginning.

"This all happened to me so young," she says. "It's very hard to go back to that time and be like, 'Did I want to do this?' It feels very foggy."



In this image released by Warner Bros., from left, Emma Watson as Hermione Granger, Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter and Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban."

"The Half-Blood Prince," shows that Radcliffe, Watson and Grint have gone from children to young adults. With the end of the series and a sense of graduation looming, its young stars appear to have emerged from the most treacherous of adventures—child actor stardom—as remarkably grounded people and increasingly talented actors.

To watch the first "Potter" film is to be reminded how young the actors were when they began.

"For me to look back on the old films is an almost entirely destructive thing to do," Radcliffe says. "I just torture

Black in several of the films, most notably the third, 2004's "Harry Potter and the Prisoner of Azkaban." Interestingly, Radcliffe pegs that film as the moment he realized he loved acting.

"Something happened at the age of 14," he says. "I started taking it more seriously, which meant I started having more fun."

He says his parents (who waited patiently in a room next door during the interview) always reminded him that he was "not obliged to just carry on doing this." But Radcliffe grew more confident and began considering his

Watson has acted in a few other films (a voice-over in 2008's "The Tale of Despereaux" and the 2007 BBC film "Ballet Shoes") but she has spent most of her spare time throughout "Potter"—and this is very Hermione-like—studying. This fall, she'll attend Brown University, says producer David Heyman. (Watson isn't discussing her plans publicly.)

"I would have exploded if I hadn't had school to ground me and focus me," Watson says.

She expects to continue acting, but says college felt like the obvious decision.

"The three of us have been working solidly since we were 10 years old," she says. "I just need a little bit of normality for a while, just a little bit of space to work out what I want and who I am—all the usual stuff. It's just something I always wanted to do."

She plans to study literature and art, but she has also shown interest in fashion. She signed to a modeling agency about two years ago.

"Fashion's great because you're able to recreate yourself whenever you want," Watson says. "Dan had time to go away and do 'Equus' on Broadway and break out of 'Harry Potter' a bit, and I was always studying. So my way of getting casting directors to look at me in a slightly different way was modeling."

Heyman, who has been with the series from the start, said: "I see their individuality really shine through as actors and as people. But at the same time, I see the same kids who are very much still filled with a sense of wonder and still have a sense of humility and don't believe the hype."

The bemused Grint—whom "Azkaban" director Alfonso Cuaron once said was the one most likely to become

a star—remains clearly grounded, even if he's used his earnings to purchase a hovercraft. That playfulness is perhaps an essential quality to Grint, who was never inclined to view acting as a job.

"I don't think I ever really made the connection of it being a career," he says. "It was just something that was fun to do. In the early ones, I don't think I took the acting too seriously. I just read the lines and got on with it. Over the years, you start to take it more seriously with different directors coming in."

Grint has starred in two films not yet released: "Cherrybomb," a boozy teen comedy set in Belfast, Ireland; and "Wild Target," a film about a retiring hit man that stars Bill Nighy and Emily Blunt.

He says he's enjoyed the "more adult" roles and feels more comfortable in front of the camera after an awkward adjustment: "This is something I was kind of thrown into," he says.

Teenage years are typically uncomfortable ones—years that few would want stored on celluloid. Grint compares the "Potter" films to "a really expensive home video."

"I guess we've all kind of grown up," he says.

The paychecks have grown in tandem, too. Forbes reports that Radcliffe made \$25 million last year. They are all legally adults now and are beginning to live on their own.

It's clearly a strange ride for the trio, who have only a vague sense of how this all began for themselves. Though they don't generally socialize offset, the camaraderie of going through it together has clearly helped.

"To have someone that's in the same boat as you is a relief," Watson says. "I wish in a way that there had been a fourth in the trio that was perhaps a girl, but they've been pretty great."

All three are certain of one thing: When they wrap the last "Harry Potter" scene, there will be tears. Their adolescence is forever intertwined with the movies.

"These are some of the most important years of my life and I won't be able to look back on any frame of this film without it being linked to a dozen memories," Radcliffe says.



This 2005 promotional photo provided by Warner Bros. Pictures shows actors, from left, Rupert Grint as Ron Weasley, Daniel Radcliffe as Harry Potter and Emma Watson as Hermione Granger are shown in a scene from "Harry Potter and the Goblet of Fire."

Jackson's hometown holds memorial for pop icon

GARY, Ind. (AP)—This gritty steel-making city where Michael Jackson got his start playing on street corners with his brothers and competing in talent shows said goodbye to the King of Pop with a show that featured experienced homegrown talent, as well as youngsters who hope to follow in his footsteps.

More than 6,000 people showed up for Friday's upbeat memorial event, which included performers singing and dancing to his hits, video montages of Jackson and comments from the Rev. Jesse Jackson, Gary's mayor and people who knew Michael Jackson when his family lived in the city located 30 miles southeast of Chicago.

People in the crowd said the celebration was fitting for the King of Pop.

"It brought back a lot of memories," said Betty Nicholson, 52, of Gary, who said she used to perform at some of the same talent shows as Jackson and his brothers. "The show was fantastic."

Some of the biggest applause came before the three-plus-hour event started, when Jackson's hits were playing over the public address system at the Steel Yard, Gary's minor league baseball park, and young children and teenagers went out to the dugout and mimicked his moves.

Two Gary natives—Chester Gregory, who has appeared on Broadway, and Deniece Williams, known for her pop hit "Let's Hear It For the Boy" from the movie "Footloose" — sang music that wasn't Jackson's. Gregory sang Jackie Wilson's "(Your Love Keeps Liftin' Me) Higher and Higher" because Wilson was a singer Jackson tried to emulate. Williams sang "Black Butterfly," a song about a caterpillar's struggles to change that she recorded in the early 1990s. She said it fit Jackson.

"Because that's what he did. It was a struggle through the pain, through everything. At the end of the day he still was a beautiful, beautiful creature with wings that flew and touched not only the United States but the world and will continue to touch the world forever," Williams said before her performance.

Jackson spent the first 11 years of his life in Gary, until the Jackson 5 struck it big in 1969. By that time, the steel industry, in which Jackson's father had worked, had started to decline. Over the following decades, the city's unemployment and poverty soared, crime increased and the population dwindled.

Jackson came back to Gary just once, in 2003. A speech he gave then was featured in one of the memorial's video montages. In it, Jackson finished by saying: "Gary, you are family, you always will be, I love you."

Mayor Rudy Clay said Jackson made the city known worldwide.

"He's going to put on those golden slippers and he's going to dance all over God's heav-

en," Clay said.

He later unveiled a 7-foot-high granite slab with an etching of Jackson standing on his tiptoes with the words "King of Pop" and

his birth date and death date. Clay said it would be the first item in a Jackson museum he hopes to see the city build.

Organizers said more than

30 members of Jackson's family attended the event, including his father, Joe Jackson, who arrived surrounded by security just as Jesse Jackson

was finishing speaking.

In his remarks, Jesse Jackson praised the pop icon's parents for the job they did raising their family while living in a small

two-bedroom house in a working-class neighborhood.

"Today we thank and praise God for Michael and we praise God for the Jackson family," he said.

In Celebration of His New Life Sgt. Francisco Litulumar Kaipat

Aka: "Ching Sofang" "Tiko"

D.O.B: March 9, 1955 • D.O.D: July 8, 2009 at the age of 54.

In his new life he now joins his:

Parents: †Mariano Borja Kaipat &

†Guadalupe Matagolai Litulumar Kaipat

Father In-law: †Antonio Tenorio Aldan

Grand children: †Venancio Pangelinan Kaipat, †Mariano Pangelinan
Kaipat, Hankie Ogumoro Kaipat, †Isaiah Ogumoro
Kaipat, †Cinclare Ogumoro Kaipat.

Brothers/ Sisters: †Daniel Litulumar Kaipat, †Manuel Litulumar Kaipat,
†Maria Litulumar Kaipat,

†Aunora Litulumar Kaipat, †Joaquina Kaipat Ada.

Brother In-law: †Francisco C. Ada, †Jose Tudela

God parents: †Antonio/ †Monica Pua

His memorial will live forever in the hearts of his:

Wife: Jacinta Ayuyu Kaipat

Ryan James A./ Tarsila P. Kaipat (Johnson, James Roger,

Ryan Jr., Jasmeng Tyra)

Roy Roger A./ Rufina I. Kaipat (Leilis, Jester, Marilyn,
Annalyn, Roy Jr.)

Roxanie Lynn Kaipat/ Joaquin T. Dowai (Dominic
Zebedee, Manuel Enrique)

Christine Guadalupe Kaipat

Frankie Joe Kaipat

Brothers / Sisters and Family:

Antonio/ Celina C. Kaipat (Lynette/ Fred, Evelyn/
Lawrence, John, Antoinette, Pearl/ Shaun, Antonio II)
Diego/ Damiana O. Kaipat (Robin, Diego Jr./ Kimberly,
Sowmangeyong, Kerai Mario)

Clotilde/ Tobias C. Aldan (Jerome/ Antonia, Jennifer/ Dennis, Joylina/ Gus, Toby Jr./
Merced, Jocelyn/ Kevin)

Isabel/Dennis Davis (Cathleen/ Marvin, Jackson/ Kimberly, Dwayne)

Josepha L. Kaipat (Kyle/ Madoka, Daniel, Emerick),

Jose/ Marianne Kaipat (Cassandra, Leschiuto)

Ricardo/ Merselynn S. Kaipat (Guadalupe/ Myron, T.J., Iverson)

Emery/ Elizabeth K. Kaipat (Daniel, Emery Jr., Dimitri, Chantilly)

Brothers / Sisters In-laws: Piding/ Danny Guerrero (Lilian/ Robert, Joseph/ Lisa. Mark/ Joyce, Jesse/ Reselle,

Dean/ Rishana, MaryBeth/ Jeff)

Angie/ Manny Borja (Geraldine/ Frank, Bernadine/ Fernando, Esther/ Felix, Rosemary/
Vince, Stephanie/ Rufino)

William/ Bertha Ayuyu (Meagan/ Robert, Willina, Bernice)

Martin/ Edith Ayuyu (Martin Jr., Cheryl, Jacin)

Oscar/ Martha Ayuyu (Shrine, Joyce, Oscar Jr.)

Samuel/ Karen Aldan (Maggie, Kimberly, Samara, Kiana, Shanice, Sam Jr.)

Antonio/ Tina Aldan (Tintin, Devin)

Gina A. Aldan (Carmen, Britanny, Tanaia).

He also survived by numerous family members.

Holy rosary is being said at his parents residence in Paganville at 8pm. On Wednesday, July 15, 2009 at 3pm., his remains will be escorted from CHC Chapel to Paganville for wake and viewing. On

Thursday July 16, 2009, Mass of Christian burial will be celebrated at Kristo Rai at 10am

followed by his burial at the veterans cemetery in Marpi.

Olomwaay, Si Yu'us Maa'se, Thank You.

Ginen i Familia

Dillinger's Ohio crime spree left out of new movie

By JOHN SEEWER
ASSOCIATED PRESS WRITER

TOLEDO, Ohio (AP)—Before becoming Public Enemy No. 1, gangster John Dillinger pulled off his first bank robbery in a sleepy Ohio town.

Police captured him months later when they swarmed his girlfriend's apartment, but within weeks he brazenly strolled out of jail after his gang killed a rural sheriff.

His Ohio escapades aren't part of the new movie "Public Enemies," which tells of his life on the run after an escape from an Indiana prison and of his death in Chicago. But his rise from small-town bank robber to America's most wanted man can be traced to a string of holdups during the summer of 1933

and the daring escape that left the Ohio lawman dead.

Even though Dillinger didn't kill the sheriff, it was the first murder in which he was involved, said John Carnes, curator of collections at the Allen County Museum in Lima.

"After the sheriff was killed," Carnes said, "everybody knew about him."

Dillinger, born in Indianapolis, is better remembered for his gang's crime spree through Illinois, Wisconsin and Indiana and for his death outside Chicago's Biograph Theater, where FBI agents shot him.

The Universal Pictures movie, starring Johnny Depp as Dillinger, focuses on those final months. Dillinger's time in Ohio often is overlooked because it wasn't until months later that he

became the FBI's top priority, Carnes said.

"I wasn't really surprised the movie left it out," Carnes said. "But it is an important part of the story."

Universal spokeswoman Jennifer Chamberlain said the film takes place during a specific time in Dillinger's life and was not intended to be a biopic.

Dillinger had served nearly nine years in a Michigan City, Ind., prison for robbing a grocery when he and his prison buddies, including a few with Ohio roots, hatched a plan that would set in motion his infamy.

They decided that Dillinger, who was to be released first, would begin knocking off banks so he could buy guns and break his friends out of prison. They

targeted banks in small towns where Dillinger could easily get away, and his first bank robbery was in New Carlisle, near Dayton, in June 1933.

In the next few months, he robbed banks in Indiana and then in Bluffton, Ohio. The money helped him smuggle guns to his Indiana prison buddies, who overpowered guards and broke out in September 1933.

But just days before the prison break, Dillinger was captured while visiting his girlfriend in Dayton. He was moved 100 miles north to Lima, where he faced a bank robbery charge in the Bluffton holdup.

Dillinger was playing cards with a few other inmates in Lima on Oct. 12, 1933, when three men claiming to be officers from Indiana walked into the jail.

They were Dillinger's old prison buddies from Indiana.

The three men told Allen County Sheriff Jess Sarber that they wanted to speak to Dillinger. When Sarber asked for their credentials, one of them shot him and then began



Not clear which police department took this undated photo of John Dillinger, but it was submitted to the FBI for use in producing fugitive flyers in 1933 or 1934.

beating him.

Dillinger heard the gunfire, got up from the card game and grabbed his coat. He knew he was free again.

Sarber died in the escape, and the three men who killed him later were captured and convicted.

Dillinger and the rest of his gang continued robbing

banks in the Midwest before they were caught in Tucson, Ariz. Dillinger was taken back to Indiana, where he escaped while awaiting trial on charges that he killed a police officer during a Chicago bank robbery.

By that time, he was the FBI's Public Enemy No. 1.

The movie, which opened July 1 and features Christian Bale as FBI man Melvin Purvis, renews the debate about whether Dillinger was a Robin Hood-type hero for those who were angry with banks and had lost their savings during the Great Depression.

"He was, as far as I'm concerned, a criminal and a murderer," said Sgt. Tim Garlock, of the Allen County sheriff's office, who began studying Dillinger's escape in Lima after he started working in the former sheriff's residence.

Visitors still stop by about once a month asking to see the old jail, which still looks the same on the outside, Garlock said.

"People," he said, "still have the fascination for it."

DEATH & FUNERAL ANNOUNCEMENT

Bernadita Arriola Manibusan

Better known as "Nan Bennang"
Born on May 20, 1942 was called to eternal life on July 06, 2009 at the age of 67

Survived by her:
Son: Joseph A. Manibusan/Stephanie V. Aldan (Ha'ane Bernace A. Manibusan)
Reared Son: Anthony Arriola

In her new life, Rosario now joins her

Husband: Abraham Pangilinan Manibusan
Parents: Francisco San Miguel Arriola, Amalia San Nicolas Arriola
Brothers/Sisters: Vicente SN. Arriola / Ana C. Arriola & Children, Francisco SN. Arriola / Ana N. Arriola & Children, Jesus SN. Arriola, Petra A. Gogue / Vicente Gogue & Children, Maria A. Gumataotao, Antonio T. Gumataotao
Father/Mother in-law: Antonia Pangilinan Manibusan, Jose Cabrera Manibusan, Ana Benavente Manibusan

Brothers/Sisters in-laws: Nicolasa M./Vicente I. Cepeda, Heronimo P./Candelaria N. Manibusan, Rufina M./Pedro M. Tudela, Vicente P./Maria B. Manibusan, Sylviam.Antonio S. Cabrera, Josepha M./Santiago T. Camacho, Rita M./Juan C. Santos, Victoria M./Gregorio S. Sablan, Luis P. Manibusan

Brothers, Sisters & In-Laws: Casiano (Cash)B./Elise Matsunage & Family, Francisco (Ankie) B./Nelda M. Manibusan & Family, Maria (Kitlang) M./Moses I Sibetang & Family, Inocencia (Cheng) M./Francisco (Tik) B. Palacios and Family, Lydia (Ding) M./Paul A. Manglona & Family, Violeta Manibusan, Daisy Santos

She will also be missed by numerous cousins, nieces, nephews, godchildren and other relatives and friends.

Nightly Rosary is being offered at their residence in San Vicente at 7:30 p.m.

On Tuesday July 14, 2009, her remains will be escorted from C.H.C. Morgue at 7:00 a.m. to their residence in San Vicente for viewing and last respects. Mass of Christian burial will be at 11:00 a.m. Burial will follow at Chalan Kanoa Cemetery.

Your thoughts and prayers are greatly appreciated

**Si Yu'us Ma'ase
The Family**

Message of Appreciation

Rosario Mendiola Cabrera Attao
(September 30, 1924 - June 24, 2009)

To all our relatives, friends and acquaintances from near and far who joined us during our time of mourning, we offer our deepest and most sincere thank you and si Yu'us ma'ase for the prayers and support you have given us during this difficult time.

We are eternally grateful for the kindness you have shown our family in our time of sorrow. We will always keep you in our thoughts and prayers.

Un dangkulu na si Yu'us ma'ase ginen i familial ma'me.

Vicente C. & Liz A. Attao
Celina A. & Aldebert Concepcion
M. Ramona (Marlene) A. & Ricardo P. Balajadia

Judge grants delay in Jackson guardianship case

LOS ANGELES (AP)—Michael Jackson's mother and ex-wife will have time to reach an agreement over who will take care of the singer's three children.

For the second time, Katherine Jackson and Deborah Rowe joined to seek a delay in a hearing that could decide who gets custody of the pop superstar's children. A guardianship hearing scheduled for Monday has been delayed for a week, an attorney said Friday.

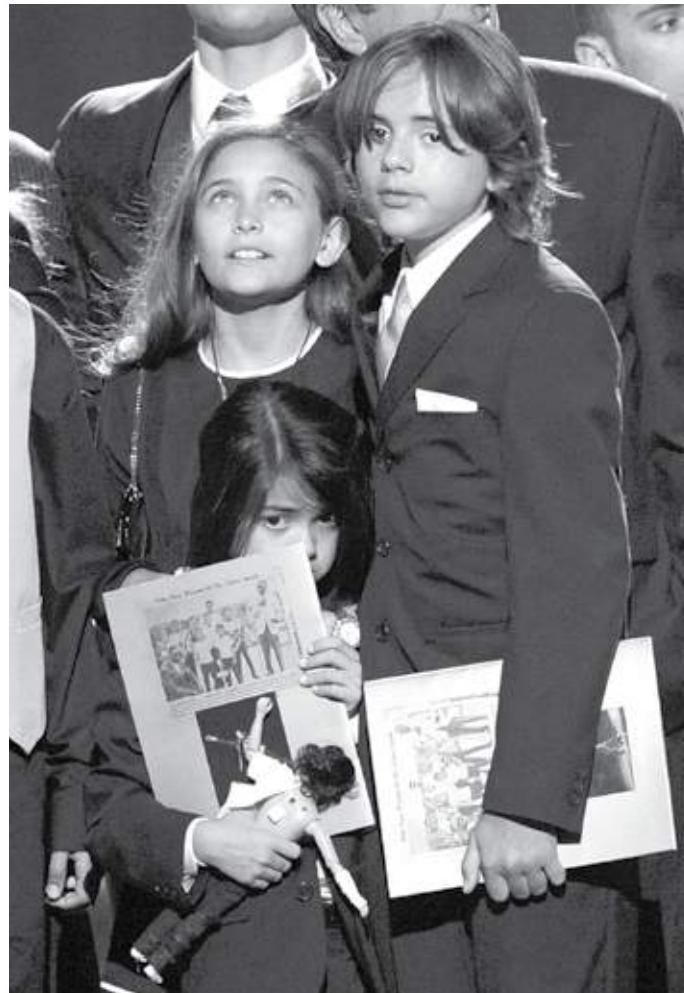
Katherine Jackson will remain the temporary guardian of her son's three children, who range in ages from 7 to 12.

Court records show a judge granted the delay Friday afternoon.

The hearing could have presented a showdown between Katherine Jackson and Rowe, who was married to the pop singer from 1996 to 1999.

Instead, the two sides are trying to broker an out-of-court settlement.

"We are pleased that the child custody hearing has been continued over until July 20th to further our progress and allow us to privately and amicably resolve this most important matter in a dignified manner for the benefit of the children first



In this July 7, 2009 file photo, Paris Jackson, left, Prince Michael Jackson and Prince Michael Jackson II appear on stage during the memorial service for Michael Jackson at the Staples Center in Los Angeles.

and all involved," L. Londell McMillan said in a statement to The Associated Press.

Attorneys for Rowe declined to comment on Friday. Requests to interview Rowe have also been denied.

Rowe has not indicated in court filings that she intends to seek custody. She is the mother of Jackson's two oldest children, 12-year-old Michael Joseph Jackson Jr., known as Prince Michael, and 11-year-old Paris Michael Katherine Jackson.

The youngest child, 7-year-old Prince Michael II, was born to a surrogate mother who has never been identified.

In a will signed in 2002, Michael Jackson stated he wanted his mother to care for his children if he died. As a backup, he designated singer and longtime friend Diana Ross.

Rowe was not given any role in the will. While much has been made of her decision in 2001 to terminate her parental rights, that decision was overturned and she and Jackson reached an out-of-court settlement in 2006.

The details of that agreement have never been released and it is unclear when Rowe, 50, last saw Jackson's children.

Paris Hilton insists she plugged sorority movie

MIAMI (AP)—Paris Hilton repeatedly fussed with her hair and makeup in a federal courtroom Friday, sported six-inch stiletto heels and a black dress and amused the judge with a little wave on the way to the witness stand.

Once on the stand, though, Hilton was businesslike when it came to defending herself against an \$8 million lawsuit's claim that she didn't do her part to promote the 2006 box-office bomb "Pledge This!" She ac-



knowledged in court the movie didn't turn out very well but insisted she plugged it for everything she was worth.

"If I have my name attached to something, I want it to be as big as it can be," the 28-year-old heiress, model and actress testified. "It could have been a lot better if it was done more professionally. I wanted it to do as well as possible."

Hilton is accused by an investor's lawsuit of turning her back on the film, which made just \$2.9 million, at a crucial time when it was being released on DVD and in foreign markets. The lawsuit seeking \$8.3 million in damages claims she violated her contract by rejecting or ignoring requests by producers to appear on talk

shows and do radio and magazine interviews for the film.

Hilton insisted she was never told her contract required appearances after the October 2006 premiere of "Pledge This!" and said she spent more than two years promoting it beforehand, including two high-profile trips to the Cannes Film Festival in France.

She also testified during four hours on the stand that she relied on her managers and agents to vet most of her promotional appearance offers because she was constantly working on projects ranging from TV shows and films to a line of perfume and handbags. She wasn't aware of many suggestions made by the "Pledge This!" producers, she said.

Paris Hilton arrives at federal court in Miami, Friday, July 10, 2009. Hilton is accused in a federal lawsuit of failing to adequately promote her 2006 movie "Pledge This!"

AP

ENTERTAINMENT TIDBITS

Danny DeVito serves lemon liqueur at festival

NEW ORLEANS (AP)—Actor Danny DeVito served up his own premium "Limoncello" liqueur flavored with zesty Italian lemons and gave a cry of "Salut!" to a drink-sipping crowd at Tales of the Cocktail, a New Orleans cocktail and culinary festival. Wife and actress Rhea Perlman accompanied DeVito as he shared stories Friday about his New Jersey upbringing and spoke of his passion for Sorrento, Italy, where his liqueur is produced. The occasion: a "Drink Italy" event at the Hotel Monteleone in the French Quarter. "It's a magnificent place," DeVito said as dozens of cocktail fans sat at tables sipping Limoncello while video footage of Italy flashed on a jumbo screen. DeVito said his premium

brand is crafted from Italian-grown organic lemons, sugar, water and alcohol. He said it goes well with tequila or in a martini with vodka—or even chilled alone.

Carrey to be a grandfather; his daughter expecting

NEW YORK (AP)—Jim Carrey is going to be a grandfather. Carrey's spokeswoman, Marleah (Mahr-LEE'-uh) Leslie, says his 21-year-old daughter, Jane Carrey, is expecting her first child. The father is her fiance, rock musician Alex Santana. Leslie had no details on when the Los Angeles-based singer—who fronts the Jane Carrey Band—is expected to give birth. In a statement issued by Leslie, Jim Carrey says he's "very excited" and "Jane is going to be a great mom." She is

the 47-year-old actor's daughter with his first wife, Melissa. Carrey's longtime partner is Jenny McCarthy, who has a son, Evan, from a previous marriage.

McCartney returns to Ed Sullivan Theater

NEW YORK (AP)—Paul McCartney is going back to the Ed Sullivan Theater. The former Beatle will appear on David Letterman's "Late Show" on Wednesday. He'll be interviewed and perform, part of a promotion for some shows he's doing this summer as he works on a new album for later this year. The Aug. 14 concert for the soldiers and their families will also feature John Rich and Jake Owen. The performance kicks off the Week of the Eagles, a celebration honoring the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. Fort Campbell is a sprawling Army post that straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line.

It will be his first appearance on Letterman's CBS show.

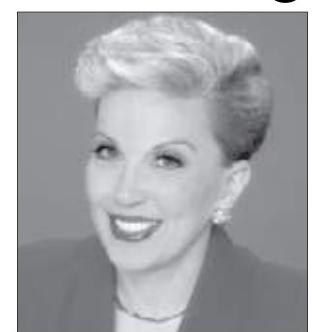
Carrie Underwood to entertain Fort Campbell troops

FORT CAMPBELL, Ky. (AP)—Carrie Underwood will headline a Salute to the Troops Concert next month at Fort Campbell. A spokeswoman for Underwood says the show is one of only a handful of live performances she is doing this summer as she works on a new album for later this year. The Aug. 14 concert for the soldiers and their families will also feature John Rich and Jake Owen. The performance kicks off the Week of the Eagles, a celebration honoring the Screaming Eagles of the 101st Airborne Division. Fort Campbell is a sprawling Army post that straddles the Kentucky-Tennessee line.

Dad's intractable bigotry makes visits excruciating

DEAR ABBY: I would like to make my father's final years of life happy ones. The problem is, Dad is a bigot. He is loud, opinionated and verbally abusive to and about people. Visiting him is stressful because I know the conversation will, at some point, turn to how terrible a certain person, country or political persuasion is. He is ill-informed yet convinced he is right.

My father is also not willing to forgive anyone who has hurt him. He thrives on anger and hate. It saddens me that his last years are so rooted in unhappiness and negativity. I don't know how to create lasting, loving memories—for both Dad and me. Any suggestions would be appreciated.



Dear Abby

OUT OF IDEAS IN NEW ORLEANS

DEAR OUT OF IDEAS: Your impulse is noble, and I respect you for it. But your father didn't suddenly become the way he is. What you have described are the patterns of a lifetime.

You might have better luck if you limit your time with him, and when you visit and he goes off on a tangent, smile and say, "Dad, we get to spend so little time together—let's talk about happy things." If that doesn't improve this situation, you might be able to retrain him by saying, "Dad, if you're going to go on like this, then I can't stay."

But please accept the fact that you are not going to change your father. Change has to come from within.

DEAR ABBY: My wife has recently become bulimic, and it is having an impact on our family. I have looked into treatment centers where patients can go for two to six weeks and receive constant care and help, but they are very expensive. Where can someone go to get help that does not cost an arm and a leg?

NEEDS HELP FAST IN CALIFORNIA

DEAR NEEDS HELP FAST: The first thing you must do is see that your wife is examined by her medical doctor to determine whether the bulimia has harmed her body. Then she needs to be evaluated by someone who treats bulimia to find out how serious her problem is. Inpatient treatment is expensive, but your wife's condition may not be so serious that it is warranted.

A daytime program in which she could return home at night might work for her, and it is less expensive. Another possibility would be ongoing therapy once or twice a week, which is even less costly. Some programs charge on a sliding scale.

Public agencies such as the Department of Social Services or Mental Health Services may have therapists who are qualified to treat bulimia at reduced rates. Or depending upon your family's financial situation, she might qualify for treatment under Medicaid.

An organization that may be able to guide you is the National Association of Anorexia Nervosa and Associated Disorders Inc. (ANAD). While ANAD does not offer treatment, it does provide information about self-help groups, therapy and referrals to professionals. For more information, visit its Web site at www.anad.org or call (847) 831-3438.

DEAR ABBY: I am a budding photographer and have recently framed and hung a montage of some scenic photos I took on my bathroom wall. The problem is, my husband says that photographs do not belong in the bathroom. What do you think?

DEFLATED EGO

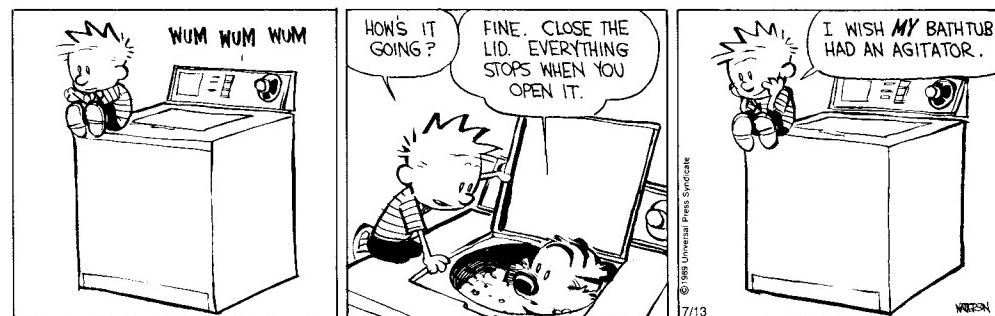
DEAR DEFLATED: Actually, your husband may have a point. The steam and dampness could damage your prints. So ask him where he thinks a more appropriate place to display them might be, and see if anything "clicks" so you can reach a compromise.

Dear Abby is written by Abigail Van Buren, also known as Jeanne Phillips, and was founded by her mother, Pauline Phillips. Write *Dear Abby* at www.DearAbby.com or P.O. Box 69440, Los Angeles, CA 90069.

For an excellent guide to becoming a better conversationalist and a more sociable person, order "How to Be Popular." Send a business-sized, self-addressed envelope, plus check or money order for \$6 (U.S. funds) to: *Dear Abby—Popularity Booklet*, P.O. Box 447, Mount Morris, IL 61054-0447. (Postage is included in the price.)

Pastimes

Calvin and Hobbes



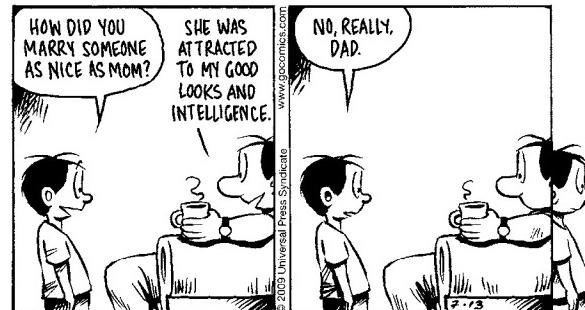
By Bill Watterson

Garfield®



By Jim Davis

Adam@home



By Bryan Basset



The Duplex

By Glenn McCoy

CROSSWORD

By Eugene Sheffer

ACROSS

- 1 Ocean motion
- 4 Fulton's power source
- 9 Winter ailment
- 12 Writer Buscaglia
- 13 Cognizant
- 14 Fleur-de- —
- 15 They get jacked up
- 17 Exist
- 18 Umpire's call
- 19 Heart lines?
- 21 Vacationers' site
- 24 Fit of preevish- ness
- 25 Biblical verb ending
- 26 Unfamiliar
- 28 Hits with the open hand
- 31 Ella's specialty
- 33 Shad product
- 35 Member of the brass (Abbr.)

Solution time: 24 mins.



Saturday's answer 7-13

For answers to today's crossword, call 1-800-226-5951 99¢ per minute, touch-tone/rotary phones. (18+ only.) A King Features service, NYC.

STUMPED?

CELEBRITIES BORN ON THIS DAY:

Cheech Marin, 63; Erno Rubik, 65; Harrison Ford, 67; Patrick Stewart, 69

Happy Birthday: Learning something new will reawaken the spirit within you. An unusual friendship will encourage you to try new things. You don't have to give up what you already have in order to enjoy a taste of different lifestyles. Visit places you haven't been for a long time and focus forward, not back, once you have reflected on your roots. Your numbers are 8, 14, 17, 25, 27, 34, 47

ARIES (March 21-April 19): Stay focused. Honesty may not always be appreciated but it is necessary and, in the end, will spare your having to explain something embarrassing. **★★★**

Taurus (April 20-May 20): You will be a mystery if you keep changing and challenging everyone. You can be the winner both at work and at home if you are engaging, fast to respond and confident. Your experience will help you be victorious. **★★★★**

GEMINI (May 21-June 20): Fight for what you want but do so with integrity or you will be blamed for not giving valid information. Choose your words carefully or someone with a smooth appeal may outmaneuver you. Keep your feelings out of the equation. **★★**

CANCER (June 21-July 22): A good attitude can carry you a long way, especially with work and advancement. Your ability to do a good job will get twice the recognition if the people around you also enjoy your company. **★★★★★**

SCORPIO (Oct. 23-Nov. 21): You may be reluctant to open up to strangers but it may be necessary if you want to make progress. You can expect to get some interesting contributions to your plans. Be willing to compromise. **★★**

SAGITTARIUS (Nov. 22-Dec. 21): Be prepared for the out-of-the-ordinary to manifest itself in situations you thought

you had under control. Overreacting will be your downfall, so play it cool and be calm and collected. You will make a lasting impression and get things done. **★★★★**

CAPRICORN (Dec. 22-Jan. 19): Don't slow down when you have so much to do. You will face adversity along with com-

PLAINTS and criticism but that must not stop you from forging ahead. Now is not the time to let sentimentality or emotions stand in your way. **★★**

AQUARIUS (Jan. 20-Feb. 18): You want to be the one to decide what you

want to do and how you want to do it. Input is fine but bullying will set you back. Your strength will come from your ability to let others know where they stand and how you feel about the interference. **★★★★**

PISCES (Feb. 19-March 20): This is not the time to question what needs to be done but instead to take action and deal with matters head-on. Once you get going, you will realize that there is plenty to gain by moving forward swiftly. **★★**

BIRTHDAY BABY: You are sensitive and caring. You take an interest in the unusual and are compassionate, reliable and serious about achieving your goals.

Eugenia's Web sites: astroadvice.com for fun, eugenialast.com for confidential consultations

WONDERWORD®

By DAVID OUELLET

HOW TO PLAY: All the words listed below appear in the puzzle — horizontally, vertically, diagonally, even backward. Find them and CIRCLE THEIR LETTERS ONLY. DO NOT CIRCLE THE WORD. The leftover letters spell the Wonderword.

TRAVELING ALL-INCLUSIVE

Solution: 4 letters

C	R	N	T	N	O	I	T	C	E	L	E	S	G	C
I	H	A	C	C	O	M	M	O	D	A	T	I	N	O
T	O	E	T	S	T	R	O	P	S	A	N	M	U	T
S	T	B	C	E	I	C	P	N	T	C	P	P	R	S
E	E	B	H	K	S	R	O	I	L	L	S	O	M	A
M	L	I	E	P	I	O	O	U	I	T	P	R	E	F
O	A	R	F	C	M	N	D	M	N	R	E	T	T	K
D	C	A	E	Y	S	E	E	A	I	T	T	E	O	A
D	I	C	E	S	D	N	R	A	D	R	R	D	W	E
I	P	N	P	S	T	U	S	T	O	E	A	Y	E	R
S	O	E	R	A	A	E	E	O	S	C	F	L	B	
H	R	A	R	T	X	N	M	S	F	S	A	R	S	A
E	T	Y	S	A	N	S	E	R	V	E	L	U	A	R
S	R	E	T	I	A	W	I	N	E	D	A	I	N	S
W	R	I	S	T	B	A	N	D	I	N	E	T	D	A

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7/13

Accommodation, Airport, A La Carte, Bars, Breakfast, Caribbean, Check-In, Chef, Complimentary, Country, Dessert, Dine, Dishes, Domestic, Food, Fruit, Gourmet, Honeymoons, Hotel, Imported, Included, Price, Rates, Reps, Restaurants, Rooms, Sand, Sauna, Selection, Serve, Sports, Stars, Stations, Taxes, Tennis, Towels, Tropical, Waiters, Wine, Wristband

Last Saturday's Answer: Simmer

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SUDOKU

Conceptis Sudoku

By Dave Green

			3		8									
9	8				5	2								
2	4		7		8	3								
7		8	1				9							
2			4		6		8							
4		2	6					8						
4	5		6		7	9								
6	7				3	1								
	9		7											

Difficulty Level ★

Sudoku is a number-placing puzzle based on a 9x9 grid with several given numbers. The object is to place the numbers 1 to 9 in the empty squares so that each row, each column and each 3x3 box contains the same number only once. The difficulty level of the Conceptis Sudoku increases from Monday to Saturday.

Yesterday's SUDOKU Answer

1	2	8	4	9	3	5	7	6
3	5	6	7	2	8	9	1	4
4	9	7	5	1	6	3	8	2
8	6	5	9	3	7	4	2	1
9	1	4	6	5	2	7	3	8
7	3	2	1	8	4	6	5	9
2	7	9	3	6	1	8	4	5
6	8	3	2	4	5	1	9	7
5	4	1	8	7	9	2	6	3

Difficulty Level ★★★★

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Slain ex-QB McNair mourned as a 'hero,' 'legend'



HATTIESBURG, Miss. (AP)—Titans quarterback Vince Young didn't expect to speak Saturday during his mentor's funeral. He wound up summing up the emotional day with just a few words.

"Steve was like a hero to me, and heroes are not supposed to die," Young said before stopping to rub his eyes as he talked about the man he knew from football camps as a teenager and called "Pops"—Steve McNair, his predecessor with the Titans.

McNair was shot and killed on the Fourth of July by his girlfriend, 20-year-old Sahel Kazemi, who then shot



Mechelle McNair, second from left, wife of the late Steve McNair, stands with two of her sons during the funeral service for Steve McNair in Hattiesburg, Miss., Saturday, July 11, 2009. AP

herself in the head.

Nearly 5,000 turned out to say goodbye to the 36-year-old during one of the biggest funerals in the recent history of Mississippi, McNair's home state.

Fans and old friends filed into the Reed Green Coliseum on the campus of the University of Southern Mississippi, and McNair's family rented buses to haul in people from his hometown of Mount Olive. Not far away sat men who competed against McNair or coached him on the field.

The high school football team McNair's son plays on wore their jerseys in honor of the man they often saw smiling from the sidelines.

"Mississippi has lost a tremendous legend," said Cardell Jones, McNair's college coach at Alcorn State.

The hearse carrying McNair's silvery-gray casket was escorted 30 miles down Highway 49 by nine police officers on motorcycles and several vehicles carried family members. After the two-hour service, the procession headed back down the road for a private burial at Griffith Cemetery, about 20 miles from Mount Olive.

Police escorted McNair's wife, Mechelle, and his mother, Lucille, into the stadium beforehand. Near the end, a handful of people surrounded his mother and his sons, waving them with fans and programs and giving hugs.

Brett Favre, who had a home near McNair's here in Hattiesburg, sat a few rows behind the McNair family but did not speak. Titans coach Jeff Fisher, Baltimore linebacker Ray Lewis and Chicago quarterback Jay Cutler attended. Doug Williams, the first black quarterback to win the Super Bowl, also was on hand.

Young was added to the service late, and the quarterback drafted by Ten-

nessee in 2006 to replace McNair remembered him as a father and mentor. Young said he felt selfish at times taking McNair away from his four sons to help him through his own life.

He then pointed at the Oak Grove High football team sitting in the stands and told them not to give up if they have someone who inspires them.

"Pay attention to that guy because every day you know I had to hear that guy's voice," Young said.

Lewis played against McNair and was his teammate the final two years of his NFL career. Lewis said he learned studying film and proper technique wouldn't help him beat a quarterback fueled by will, heart and sacrifice.

"I find myself in awe when I speak about a man like Steve McNair," Lewis said.

Dallas Cowboys owner Jerry Jones was among those who sent flowers. Titans owner Bud Adams attended a memorial service Thursday night in Nashville, where thousands more attended. Fisher was called up to speak from the audience, and he pulled Young over to the podium and led the audience in the Lord's Prayer

just as he did during 11 seasons with McNair before every kickoff.

Bobby Hamilton, who played at Southern Miss and in the NFL with New England and Oakland, used to sleep on the floor of McNair's oldest brother, Fred, when he played at Alcorn State. He also cheered on McNair during his career and recalled how McNair rallied Alcorn State once by scoring two touchdowns with less than a minute left.

"It's very painful. We know he was a warrior. ... I can't even say the word how this warrior went down," an emotional Hamilton said.

The program included memories from McNair's mother, his wife and

Tension? Armstrong vs. Contador at Tour de France



SAINT-GIRONS, France (AP)—

Lance Armstrong is trying not to let his rivalry with Alberto Contador distract him and the rest of the Astana team at the Tour de France.

On Saturday, the status quo between Contador and Armstrong prevailed as Luis Leon Sanchez of Spain won the eighth stage in the Pyrenees, while Italy's Rinaldo Nocentini retained the yellow jersey.

Contador eclipsed the seven-time Tour champion Armstrong a day earlier in the first Pyrenean ride, and trails the Italian, who is not seen as an overall title threat, by six seconds. Armstrong is eight seconds back.

The Astana team, facing new questions about whether teamwork still trumps its brewing two-man rivalry, on Friday had a powwow on the team bus about the breakaway by Contador a day earlier.

"What's said in the bus, stays in the bus," said team sporting director Johan Bruyneel, confirming the breakaway was discussed but refusing to offer details to reporters.

Before the ride Saturday, when Versus' Frankie Andreu asked whether Astana was more divided now, after Contador's breakaway, Armstrong dodged the issue.

"I'm going to refuse to comment on that," Armstrong said. "At the end of the day, we're all professionals—and even if there were some hurt feelings, we're going to do our job."

Armstrong didn't speak to reporters after Saturday's stage, a 110-mile trek along three big climbs from the Pyrenean principality of Andorra to Saint-Girons, France.

Armstrong posted on Twitter: "St8 done. Tough but not 2 challenging. Had anti-doping control AGAIN."

Cycling's governing body UCI and France's anti-doping agency have stepped up urine and blood tests this year in an effort to root out cheats who have marred cycling's premiere race in recent years. That means top performers like Armstrong face more checks.

Contador, in a statement from his spokesman, didn't make any mention of relations within the team, and simply credited a strong effort from Astana riders to beat back rivals' attacks Saturday.

The 26-year-old Contador is already one of cycling's top riders, having won all three Grand Tours of France, Italy and Spain—a feat accomplished only by five riders. Armstrong isn't one of them.

The race has shaped up as a two-man battle between the two Astana stars so far primarily because the other pre-race favorites lost key time in time trials, and are trailing badly.

In order to get back into contention, the rivals tried to attack during the Pyrenees—the first big mountain challenges of the three-week race. So far, they've had no success against Astana.

The first salvo Saturday came from two-time Tour runner-up Cadel Evans, who burst out of the

peloton on the first of the day's three climbs—the Category 1 Envalira Pass—at the 14.6-mile mark. He and others built a lead on the pack of about 2 minutes, but the Australian was reeled in after about 39 miles.

On the Agnes pass, the day's last big climb, Andy Schleck of Luxembourg led the attack—but he too couldn't shake the Astana train.

Nocentini almost lost his yellow jersey when the main race favorites—including Armstrong and Contador—left him behind in the last of the climbs. He credited an escort from his AG2R La Mondiale teammate Stephane Goubert for helping him catch up.

Astana holds four of the top six spots. Levi Leipheimer of the United States is 39 seconds off the pace in fourth, while Andreas Kloeden is sixth, 54 seconds behind.

Some riders dreaded the steep opening to the stage.

"Today's stage starts off going uphill for 20 miles!!" Leipheimer tweeted. "That's a rude awakening, plenty of riders will be looking to get in the breakaway."

He was right.

Sanchez, who won the Paris-Nice stage race in March, led a four-person breakaway toward the finish line. He looked skyward and tapped his chest after crossing just ahead of France's Sandy Casar and Mikel Astarloza of Spain. They clocked 4 hours, 31 minutes, 50 seconds for the 110-mile trek.

The victory for Caisse d'Epargne rider Sanchez was a boost to his team. Oscar Pereiro, the 2006 Tour champion, quit the race due to fatigue and the team's star rider, Alejandro Valverde, is not in the Tour because of an Italian doping probe.

Even riders such as Sanchez, a friend of Contador, were making allusions to the duel within Astana—as though many in the pack are sensing that the team could implode.

Sanchez said he hoped Contador would win the Tour, before adding: "I'm not going to get into the polemic in their team about who can win between him and Armstrong."

But he said Contador was dazzling in the final climb into the Arcalis ski station in Andorra on Friday—the first big test of the race, and a clear sign that his legs are fresh.

In the last 1.2 miles, Contador burst ahead of Armstrong and other contenders and gained more than 20 seconds on them in a short span.

"It's true that compared to his other adversaries, he's really gotten a jump," Sanchez said.

Among the other favorites, Schleck is 1:49 back in ninth, defending Tour winner Carlos Sastre of Spain is 2:52 back in 16th, and Evans is 3:07 behind in 18th place.

Riders face a third and final day in the Pyrenees on Sunday, a 100-mile course from Saint-Gaudens to Tarbes via the Tourmalet Pass, one of the toughest climbs in cycling.

Monday is the race's first rest day. The race ends July 26 in Paris.

Angels score 7 in fifth, beat Yanks



ANAHEIM, California (AP)—The Los Angeles Angels scored seven runs in the fifth inning for their second straight comeback victory over the New York Yankees by 14-8 in the American League on Saturday.

During the Angels' fifth-inning rally from 4-1 down, Mike Napoli hit a go-ahead two-run double off David Robertson, Brandon Wood connected for a two-run homer, Howie Kendrick capped it with a two-run single and Bobby Abreu drove in three runs against his former team. The Angels lead the majors with 26 comeback wins, one more than the Yankees.

White Sox 8, Twins 7

At Minneapolis, Jim Thome drove in four runs for Chicago, countering two home runs by ex-teammate Joe Crede.

Bobby Jenks picked up his 20th save, but nearly blew it when Jose Morales hit a two-run single with one out in the ninth after Crede's sharp grounder shot through Gordon Beckham's legs for an error to put runners at second and third. Denard Span grounded into a double play to end the game.

Indians 5, Tigers 4

At Detroit, Carl Pavano allowed two runs in eight innings and Travis Hafner had two RBIs for Cleveland to end Detroit's three-game winning run.

Pavano (8-7) was aided by three double plays in the first four innings, including a strikeout-caught-stealing version to end the fourth. He allowed seven hits with six strikeouts and no walks.

Red Sox 15, Royals 9

At Boston, John Smoltz got his first win for Boston and Kevin Youkilis hit two



Los Angeles Angels' Kendry Morales, left, and Mike Napoli celebrate after scoring against the New York Yankees on a single by Gary Matthews Jr. during the eighth inning of a baseball game in Anaheim, Calif., Saturday, July 11, 2009.

home runs to lift the Red Sox.

Smoltz (1-2) struck out seven over five innings, allowing one run on four hits. Coming off shoulder surgery that cut his 2008 season to six appearances, the 42-year-old Smoltz didn't make his first start until June 25 against Washington. He struggled with an 0-2 record and 6.60 ERA in three previous appearances.

Athletics 7, Rays 2

At St. Petersburg, Florida, Rajai Davis and Adam Kennedy each hit two-run homers in the seventh inning, and Dallas Braden (7-7) gave up two runs over six innings for Oakland.

Davis hit his two-run homer off Matt Garza (6-7) before Kennedy added another two-run shot on the only pitch Randy Choate threw to put Oakland ahead 4-2.

Orioles 4, Blue Jays 3, 12 innings

At Baltimore, Melvin Mora ended a 50-game homerless drought with an opposite-field drive in the 12th inning, giving Baltimore a victory over Toronto.

Mora had gone 189 at-bats without a homer since May 7 before connecting against Jesse Carlson (1-4). The homer drought was the longest of his career.

Mariners 4, Rangers 1

At Seattle, Rob Johnson hit a tiebreaking, two-run homer in the seventh inning as Seattle downed Texas.

Johnson's first homer of the season came off Kevin Millwood (8-7), who pitched six solid innings, but couldn't retire any of the three batters he faced in the seventh.

Stricker jumps into contention at John Deere



SILVIS, Ill. (AP)—Somewhere between the range and the course, Steve Stricker found his swing. Once he did, he rocketed toward the top of the leaderboard at the John Deere Classic.

Stricker vaulted into second place, tying a course record and matching the lowest score of his career with a 10-under 61 Saturday that left him three strokes behind Darren Stiles through two rounds.

Stiles (65), the first-round co-leader with Lee Janzen, remained on top at 13-under 129. Stricker, however, stole the show on a sunny day at TPC Deere Run.

"I didn't see it coming," he said. "I warmed up very poorly on the range this morning. I spent some time out here yesterday later in the day and putted a lot and found a little catch there in my putting. I made a lot of great putts. I wasn't very aggressive at times, but I hit the ball well and gave myself some opportunities."

The Wisconsin native and Illinois alum had plenty of support from the crowd as he assaulted a course that was battered the previous day by the second big rain storm of the week, causing the second round to

be pushed back. By the time he was through, he was at 10-under for the tournament after matching a record set by 2002 champion J.P. Hayes. That put him in contention for his sixth PGA Tour victory and second this year heading into the final two rounds on Sunday.

"I shot 3 under on the back and I'm getting run over," said Scott Verplank, who was grouped with Stricker and shot 64 to go 8 under.

Tim Petrovic (67) and Jerry Kelly (64) were right behind Stricker at 9-under, and two-time U.S. Open champion Janzen (70) was in a crowd at 8-under. Kenny Perry (68) was 6 under, with Zach Johnson (68) 5 under. Reigning U.S. Open champion Lucas Glover was at 3 under made the cut but did not finish, while David Duval missed the cut altogether in his first start since that surprising three-way tie for second at Bethpage Black.

The remaining players are in for a busy day Sunday, with 36 holes scheduled. If they get a break between rounds, it'll be a short one because they won't be re-grouped.

"You may not be playing with the leader at all," Stricker said. "The leader could be behind us, in front of us. You don't know where they can come from."

Stricker seemed to come out of nowhere after an even first round.

He teed off on No. 10 in the morning and set the tone with birdies on four of his first six holes. The assault continued on No. 17, when he buried a 93-yard wedge for an eagle on the par-5 to go 6 under, and he made the turn at 7-under after dropping in a 17-foot birdie putt on 18.

Two more on the first and second holes dropped him to 9-under, and that's when thoughts of the tour-record 59 started creeping into Stricker's head. The momentum momentarily came to a stop when he bogeyed the par-3 No. 4, but that vision came back on the par-4 sixth when his 130-yard approach settled 8 feet from the cup to set up a birdie to go 10 under with three holes remaining.

"It entered my mind, but yet, I tried to play smart, too, and not get crazy and do anything out of my norm," Stricker said.

So he settled for a course record, instead of a tour record. He delivered one of his best performances, instead of a historic performance.

Overall, quite a day.

He needed just nine putts on his first nine holes and 22 in all, matching a career best.

The 61 tied the career low he set in

Phillies 8, Pirates 7

At Philadelphia, Ryan Howard hit a tying three-run homer in the ninth inning before Paul Bako's single gave the Philadelphia Phillies a victory over the Pittsburgh Pirates.

The Phillies, who have won eight of their past nine games, trailed 7-3 before pinch-hitter Matt Stairs led off the ninth with a homer off Matt Capps (1-5). Jimmy Rollins walked and stole second, his third steal of the game, and Chase Utley followed with a one-out single to left.

Mets 4, Reds 0

At New York, Jeff Francoeur had a two-run single in his Mets debut and Johan Santana pitched seven sharp innings to lead New York over Cincinnati.

Omir Santos had three hits for New York, which scored all its runs in the first two innings. Leadoff hitter Angel Pagan scored twice and swiped two bases in his second game back after being sidelined with a strained groin.

Cubs 5, Cardinals 2

At Chicago, Ted Lilly allowed four hits and a run in eight strong innings to earn his 100th career victory as Chicago beat St. Louis Cardinals.

Lilly (9-6), the Cubs' lone selection to the All-Star game, walked one and struck out four in a 103-pitch outing and left with a 5-1 lead. The veteran left-hander was staked to an early 3-0 lead with Jeff Baker hitting a two-run, bases-loaded single in the first.

Brewers 6, Dodgers 3

At Milwaukee, J.J. Hardy hit a two-out, two-run double in the eighth inning, and Trevor Hoffman and the Milwaukee bullpen held on to beat Los Angeles.

Mike Burns (2-2) struck out a career-high seven and drove in a run to win for the second time in his career, and Frank

Catalanotto homered for the Brewers.

Nationals 13, Astros 2

At Houston, Nick Johnson, Josh Willingham and Adam Dunn homered in consecutive at-bats as Washington set season highs for hits and runs to beat Houston.

Washington's 21 hits were the team's most since the franchise relocated from Montreal in 2005. The Nationals last scored 13 runs against the Chicago Cubs on Aug. 22, 2008.

Giants 2, Padres 1

At San Francisco, Pablo Sandoval homered for the second straight day and Justin Miller (2-1) pitched solidly in place of injured starter Matt Cain as San Francisco beat San Diego.

A day after Jonathan Sanchez pitched a no-hitter, the Giants beat the Padres for a third straight game behind Sandoval.

Diamondbacks 5, Marlins 1

At Phoenix, All-Star Justin Upton matched a career high with four hits and Jon Garland allowed one run in eight innings as Arizona downed Florida.

Upton had three singles, a triple and an RBI, and Miguel Montero added a two-run double for the Diamondbacks, who won for the seventh time in eight games.

Braves 4, Rockies 3

At Denver, Jair Jurrjens pitched six strong innings and singled twice to drive in one run and score another in Atlanta's win over Colorado.

Jurrjens (7-7) won for just the second time in his last eight starts with the help of his bat and arm. He had taken five losses in that span, including four in which he received two or fewer runs in offensive support.

Standing in Stricker's way is Stiles, a 36-year-old who has never finished higher than ninth on the tour and had made just one of 11 cuts this year. Now, he has the lead heading into Sunday.

"I've done it before," said Stiles, a four-time winner on the Nationwide Tour. "Maybe not on the big tour, but I've done it."

NBA BRIEFS

Varejao happy to be sticking with Cavaliers

INDEPENDENCE, Ohio (AP)—Even when he opted to become a free agent, Anderson Varejao thought his best option was to remain a Cleveland Cavalier. Less than a month after declining an option year on his contract, Varejao signed a six-year deal that could pay him \$50 million with incentives, but averages closer to \$7 million annually. It's a raise over the \$6.2 million he was set to earn under the previous deal, but also leaves the Cavaliers with financial flexibility in the years ahead. Negotiations moved much swifter than two years ago, when Varejao missed the season's first month while negotiating a new contract. "Our priority was Cleveland," Varejao said. "I know we had some other teams (interested), but I wanted to come back. I believe we have a great organization,

a great team and we have a chance to win a championship."

Mavericks re-sign Jason Kidd to 3-year deal

DALLAS (AP)—The Dallas Mavericks have re-signed nine-time NBA All-Star Jason Kidd on a three-year contract worth more than \$25 million. The team announced the free agent point guard signed on Saturday, five days after owner Mark Cuban confirmed that Kidd was returning. The 37-year-old Kidd could finish his career where it started in 1994—with the Mavericks. He returned to Dallas in a trade last year with New Jersey, where he made two trips to the NBA finals with the Nets. Kidd is third on the NBA's career list in assists (10,199) and triple-doubles (103). Kidd has averaged 13.8 points, 6.7 rebounds and 9.2 assists in 15 NBA seasons.

MDX survives NMBA, Cabalen stuns Bayani

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER



Kae Bernardo was headed for a scoreless second half until he made a buzzer-beating banked shot that lifted MDX-Chow Queen to a thrilling 93-91 win over Northern Marianas Bartenders Association in the open division of the 7th United Filipino Organization Inter-Organizational Basketball League last Saturday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

Bernardo's dagger came after Jun Estolas canned a game-tying triple in the last five seconds of the contest.

NMBA fought gallantly despite missing key players and almost sent the game in overtime, before Bernardo made the game-saving basket.

Trailing most of the way, NMBA finally took the driver's seat, 88-87, on a pair of free throws by Estolas, with less than a minute left in the fourth

period. NMBA had a chance to increase the lead after MDX missed on its offensive set, but Bon Tamayo stole a bad pass from Melvin Villarin to Estolas near the right sideline.

MDX sprinted to its frontcourt with Jun Pantaleon on the finishing end, giving the lead back to his team, 89-88. Estolas muffed a layup on the other end, paving the way for another MDX fastbreak play with Wowie Abuel making an extra pass to Bart Demapan for an easy basket.

With 25 seconds left on the clock, Gil Gapor had the opportunity to move NMBA closer, when he was fouled on his way for an undergoal stab, but he missed two free throws. Fortunately for NMBA, it got the ball back, as Demapan could not hang on to the loose ball, losing the leather to the left sideline in front of NMBA's bench.

NMBA called its last time out and took several extra passes before finding an open man for the game-tying triple. Estolas was momentarily open from

the left key, but opted to pass the ball to Gapor near the free throw area. Gapor then gave the leather to Bernard Aquino, who also had second thoughts of firing from downtown and at the last minute elected to give the ball back to Estolas. With the clock running down, Estolas finally pulled up for a long jumper near the right key and connected on a triple.

With five seconds left in the game, MDX quickly inbounded the ball with Demapan sprinting to their frontcourt driving to the middle, but made an extra pass to Bernardo on the right wing. Bernardo released the ball, used the board, and made the shot against NMBA's Villarin and Gapor.

NMBA coach Marvin Deocares contended that the ball was still on Bernardo's hands when the buzzer sounded, but referees Fyke Sabino and Robert Tamondong counted the basket.

The win was MDX's fifth in as many games, while the loss was NMBA third in five matches.

NMBA earlier played its rain-suspended match against Bayani

with the former escaping with a 99-95 victory.

Bayani suffered back-to-back losses Saturday night, as its also bowed to Cabalen.

Cabalen, which nailed a 94-93 triumph over Bayani, broke into the win column after dropping its first five games.

First Game

Cabalen 94 – Mina 44, Guiang 18, Tobias 9, Ortega 8, Corotan 5, Cadag 4, Paras 2.

Bayani 93 – Tabora 36, Delos Reyes 29, Palma 2, Sanciangco 3, Aquino 2, Ong 2, Abuy 2, Zapata 2, Cabrera 2, Tolentino 1.

Scoring by quarters: 20-25, 44-49, 60-68, 94-93.

Second Game

MDX 93 – Abuel 25, Tamayo 22, Bernardo 14, Demapan 13, Pantaleon 8, Melv. Capalad 6, De Vero 5, Melj. Capalad 4.

NMBA 91 – Estolas 21, Aquino 18, De Guzman 14, Gapor 11, Umali 7, Villarin 6, Opone 6, Rebuyon 4.

Scoring by quarters: 32-24, 52-46, 78-69, 93-91.

events, Shin Kimura will also join forces with his three teams in three relay events.

"We place the relay to be the most important event for CNMI team. We expect good results and we're looking forward to breaking the record of the last Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January," Hiro Kimura said.

Shin and company timed in at 8:45.15 in the 200m freestyle relay in the Junior Pan Pacific, breaking the 9:17.05 Wong, Juan and Michael Camacho, and David Palacios set during their silver-medal swim in the 2006 Micronesian Games. The Junior Pan Pacific mark was even better than Guam's gold-medal time of 8:51.11.

MMA's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in the 190-lb. division;

Team Subdue's "Infamous" Ray Apiag vs. Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible" Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

Team Subdue's Gilbert "Guamaniac" Meno vs. Team Zogai's Shane "Insane" Camacho in the 180-lb. division;

Chargualaf of Team Countershock, meanwhile, will duke it out against Maitai "The Charger" Charley of Marianas Elite in the evening's special kickboxing bout.

Tickets for Trench War X: Collision will go on sale soon. General admission costs \$25 and VIP is \$35. Alvarez said doors will open at 7pm with the fights starting at 8pm.

Alberto Gavaldá of Spain, and Leandro de Araújo of Brazil. DJ Ngirchongor was one of the 16 youth trackters from Pacific Island nations who took part in the biennial event. Also in the list were American Samoa's Eden Annandale, the Cook Island's Daniel Tutai, Fiji's Banuve Tabakaukoru, Federated States of Micronesia's

Ashley Apiner, Guam's Noreen Ericsson, Kiribati's Uaati Iaaro, Marshall Islands' Jamodre Lalita, Nauru's Lovelite Detenamo, Palau's Sorai Bella Reklai, Papua New Guinea's John Rivan, Samoa's Margaret Satupai, Solomon Islands' Sukulu Mathew, Tonga's Feso Tapele, and Vanuatu's Valentine Hello. The CNMI runner was the

MBI

From Page 28

control of the game and eventually stole the win.

Nonato also scored in double figures in the third period, making 12. However, MBI, which fell behind by three points at halftime, 35-38, led by only a hair, 59-58, entering the final canto.

In the payoff period, Nonato picked up where he left off, knocking down two triples and two layups and hitting 3-for-4 from the foul line. Marvin Achas also helped MBI's cause in the fourth period, going 5-for-8 from the 15-foot line.

MBI held Shirley's to 18 points in the fourth period, the host's lowest output in the game, to notch the third semis berth.

Advance claimed the fourth semis slot after outclassing PTC in the second half of the evening's night cap.

PTC led at halftime, 32-30, before the X-Terminators found their rhythm in the third period with Ritual leading the attack, firing 10 markers.

Mike Olaitiman chipped in six and three other Advance players combined for eight points, as

the X-Terminators outgunned PTC, 24-9, to take a 54-41 lead, entering the fourth period.

PTC tried to regain the lead in the payoff period, behind Erlan Lansang and Jojo Garon, but they missed several free throws hurting the team's chances to pull off an upset. Garon had 19 points in the fourth canto, but was only 3-for-13 from the foul line. Lansang tallied 10 points and went 4-for-6 from the 15-foot line.

First Game

MBI 82 – Nonato 45, Trajano 13, Achas 11, Cabrera 7, Sese 2, Barbo 2.

Shirley's 76 – Sedillo 30, Laxa 12, Catungal 12, Niedao 12, Merencilla 2, Galario 2, Sardane 2, Drilon 2, Atienza 2.

Scoring by quarters: 17-19, 38-35, 58-59, 82-76.

Second Game

Advance 80 – Ritual 31, Olaitiman 26, Apostol 10, Capillan 6, Relata 3, Daprosa 2, Lontoc 2.

PTC 73 – Garon 23, Cepeda 12, Lansang 10, Obnimaga 8, Pangelinan 8, Sarmiento 6, Taisacan 6.

Scoring by quarters: 15-12, 32-30, 54-51, 80-73.

KIMURA

From Page 28

are used to tough tournaments around the world. However, Kimura said he does not want to be discouraged or destroyed by racing against highly regarded swimmers in his heat, as he will be racing against himself not against these top swimmers.

"It doesn't matter for me if there's a faster swimmer in my heat because I will swim for my best time," said Kimura, who will be competing in the 50m, 100m, and 400m freestyle events.

He added that to get into the World Championships is already

an achievement for a youth swimmer like him.

"We will see in Rome top-level swimmers who trained very, very hard to be able to compete in the World Championships. We have to be thankful that we can swim in the World Championships. We have to do our best and focus on our goal, which is to make personal best times and CNMI records," Kimura said.

The World Championships will take place at Foro Italico and Ostia from July 17 to Aug. 2 and will feature around 2,800 athletes, including Olympian Michael Phelps, from 200 nations.

Kimura said most of the participants in the World Cham-

pionships are at the top in their respective countries and get the better training and equipment than CNMI swimmers have. However, the Commonwealth's swimmers give the same effort that these world-class swimmers have been putting into training and competitions.

"We don't have the best pool and equipment, but still, we practice hard everyday," Kimura said.

Joining Shin in Rome is Tsunami Saipan coach and his father, Hiro.

Hiro said he is hoping Shin will make it to the 4:40 mark in the 400m freestyle and post under one minute in the 100m freestyle.

Besides the three individual

and Guam's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong of THUGCOP.

The other scheduled fights are the following:

Team Lockdown's Eric "The Terror" Tedtaotao vs. Marianas Elite's Myron "The Natural" San Nicolas in the 240-lb. super heavyweight division semi main event;

XTREME's "Kill" Bill Saures vs. Da Crew 671's Mike "Ogre" Davis in the big brawl;

Spike 22/Ground Fu's Tony "Rush" Reyes vs. Tanapag Beach Badd Boiz/Team Zogai's Ryan Gardee in the 140-lb. division;

Spike 22/Ground Fu's Jun "Shockeraba" San Nicolas vs. Marianas Elite's Martin Ayuyu in the 130-b. division;

Trench Tech's Slade "The Rage" Adelbai vs. Team Psycho

MMA's Toby "Big Tobz" Mesa in the 190-lb. division;

Team Subdue's "Infamous" Ray Apiag vs. Predator Combat Team's Nate "The Terrible" Flores in the 155-lb. division; and

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TRIBUNE SPORTS SCORES

MLB STANDINGS

AMERICAN LEAGUE

East Division

W	L	Pct	GB
Boston	53	.34	.609
New York	51	.36	.586
Tampa Bay	48	.40	.545
Toronto	44	.45	.494
Baltimore	39	.48	.448

Central Division

Detroit	47	.39	.547	–
Chicago	45	.42	.517	2 1/2
Minnesota	44	.44	.500	4
Kansas City	37	.50	.425	10 1/2
Cleveland	35	.53	.398	13

West Division

Los Angeles	48	.37	.565	–
Texas	48	.38	.558	1 1/2
Seattle	45	.42	.517	4
Oakland	36	.49	.424	12

NATIONAL LEAGUE

East Division

Philadelphia	47	.38	.553	–
Florida	45	.44	.506	4
Atlanta	43	.44	.494	5
New York	41	.45	.477	6 1/2</

The Week in Sports

CNMI athletes show worth in int'l meet

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

With local tournaments scarce at this time of the year, CNMI athletes took this opportunity to showcase their skills in international tournaments.

Long distance runner Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel competed in the Gold Coast Airport Half Marathon in Gold, Coast, Australia on July 5 and was among the Top 10 Pacific Islander finishers.

Kabiriel completed the half marathon Down Under also dubbed as the 2009 Oceania Half Marathon Championships in one hour, 29 minutes and 16 seconds (gun time). His net time is 1:29:16. Both times were better than

the 1:30:00 Kabiriel posted during the 21.079-kilometer Saipan half marathon he won in January this year.

Another runner, D.J. Ngirchongor, left Saipan for Italy to participate in the Sudtirol 2009 World Youth Championships.

Ngirchongor joined the 200m race last Friday and was among the 16 athletes from Pacific Island nations to compete in the biennial tournament.

Also bound for a World Championships event are Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan's Rezne Wong, Cooper Graf, Shin Kimura, and Kai Staal.

The four swimmers will represent the CNMI to the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome, Italy and will be making history, as they will be the first CNMI team to participate in relays

in the World Championships.

The CNMI Major All-Stars aimed to become the second team from the Commonwealth to make it to the World Series this year, but fell short of their target. The CNMI Junior All-Stars secured a World Series slot after winning the ASPAC in Indonesia last month.

The CNMI Major All-Stars went to Hong Kong to compete in the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament and won their first two games against the host, 2-1, and the Philippines, 8-2.

A 3-6 loss to Guam virtually booted the CNMI bets out in the ASPAC finals and caused the latter to lose their World Series bid.

Despite the sorry defeat, the CNMI youth slingers still played strong in their last game in the World Series

qualifier, shutting out Indonesia, 8-0.

The CNMI Major All-Stars are managed by Elmer Sablan with Randall Aguon and Pete Tomokane as coach and assistant coach, respectively. The team is composed of Jose Lizama, Jr., Keene Guerrero, Jeremy Lizama Alden Ngeskebei, Darion Jones, Frankie Lieto, Gayvan Uchau, Ian Rogolifoi, Jhace Palacios, Jonathan Cabrera, Khobby Kaipat, Nathan Sablan, and Raymond Saralu.

Also making the CNMI proud in international tournament is Frank "The Crank" Camacho.

The New Jersey-based mixed martial artist won two medals in the Grapplers Quest 2009 US Nationals/All-Star Pro Challenge held in Morristown, New Jersey.

Back in local events, Trench Tech is gearing up for another MMA event with the staging of Trench Warz X: Collision set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort.

Guam's Manny "The Enforcer" Chong will duel Saipan's Kelvin "The Big Hit" Fitial in the main event, while six other Saipan vs Guam bouts are featured in the event.

In basketball, the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League started its playoffs last Friday with Advance X-Terminators and Micronesian Brokers, Inc., joining G4S and Fiesta Resort & Spa Saipan in the semifinals.

Advance and MBI won over Pacific Trading, Co. and Shirley's respectively, in the first round of the playoffs.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

From left, Shin Kimura, Rezne Wong, Kai Staal, and Cooper Graf, pose for a group photo during the 2009 Junior Pan Pacific Championships in Guam in January this year.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

Frank "The Crank" Camacho poses with fellow winners in the Grapplers Quest 2009 US Nationals/All-Star Pro Challenge in Morristown, New Jersey.



Shirley's Fradel Sedillo drives against MBI defenders during their playoff game in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

ROSELYN B. MONROYO



Chong



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Ketson "Jack" Kabiriel, seen here checking on his watch during a local race, competed in the 2009 Gold Coast Half Marathon in Gold Coast, Australia.



CONTRIBUTED PHOTO

The CNMI delegates to the 2009 Asia Pacific Regional Tournament pose for a group photo at Hong Kong Disneyland before their game against the host.



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
D.J. Ngirchongor is seen here practicing at the Oleai Sports Complex track and field facility for the Sudtirol 2009 World Youth Championships held in Italy.

CNMI athletes show worth in int'l meet



With local tournaments scarce at this time of the year, CNMI athletes took this opportunity to showcase their skills in international tournaments. **27**

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Saipan Tribune Sports

Slain ex-QB McNair mourned as a 'hero,' 'legend'

Titans quarterback Vince Young didn't expect to speak Saturday during his mentor's funeral. He wound up summing up the emotional day with just a few words. **24**



SAIPAN TRIBUNE

MBI, Advance gain semis berths



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
MBI's R.J. Nonato, right, tries to shake off the defense of Shirley's Fradel Sedillo, center, and Jessie Nicdao, left, during their playoff game in the Shirley's caging last Friday at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Micronesia Brokers, Inc. and Advance completed the semifinals cast in the 2009 Inaugural Shirley's Coffee Shop Invitational Basketball League after thwarting separate foes last Friday night at the JP Center Basketball Court in Garapan.

MBI kept Shirley's within striking distance in the first three quarters before R.J. Nonato stepped on the pedal in the fourth period en route to an 82-76 win.

In the second game, Rocyl Ritual anchored Advance's third-quarter breakaway to lift the X-Terminators to an 80-73 triumph over PTC.

With the wins, Advance and MBI ad-

vanced to the semifinals against Fiesta Resort & Spa and G4S, respectively. The semifinal games will be played tonight with the winners moving to the best-of-three title series, which will start on Wednesday.

Nonato sizzled for 45 points for MBI with his 13 markers in the fourth quarter allowing his team to seize

See MBI on Page 26



By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

Third of a four-part series

 With the World Championships expected to overwhelm every debuting swimmer, Shin Kimura is hoping to maintain his focus when he plunges into the pool in Rome, Italy.

Kimura is one of the two Tsunami Swimming Center Saipan bets who will be competing in the World Championships for the first time. The other is Kai Staal. Completing the CNMI Team that will participate in the 13th FINA World Championships in Rome are second-timers Rezne Wong and Cooper Graf.

Hearing the word World Championships made Kimura think of competing against top-level swimmers who

See KIMURA on Page 26



ROSELYN B. MONROYO
Shin Kimura, seen here competing in the 100m freestyle swim in a local tournament early this year, will be participating in his first World Championships in Rome, Italy later this month.

DJ Ngirchongor completes World Championships stint

By ROSELYN B. MONROYO
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REPORTER

 C N M I ' s DJ Ngirchongor completed his appearance in the Sudtirol 2009 World Youth Championships in Bressanone, Italy, after racing in the 200m run last Friday.

Ngirchongor timed in at 25.78 seconds and finished seventh in his heat. He failed to eclipse his personal best time of 25.50 seconds.

The 16-year-old runner was among the 66 participants in the 200m race. Runners were divided into nine heats with Ngirchongor entered on Heat 7.

Johannes de Klerk of Russia won Heat 7 with his time of 21.70 seconds and qualified to the next round, along with Puerto Rico's Carlos Rodriguez (21.96 seconds), and Spain's José Antonio Vizuete (22.10 seconds).

Grenada's Kirani James, who topped Heat 9, posted the fastest qualifying time with his 21.18 seconds, besting Dred Dukes (21.28 seconds)

See DJ on Page 26



Ngirchongor

Young fighters in 'Collision' course

By MARK RABAGO
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ASSISTANT EDITOR

Youth will be served when up-and-coming fighters Chris "No Luv" Laayug of Saipan and Jon "The Heat" Delos Reyes square off in one of the under-cards of Trench Warz X: Collision set for July 31 at the Saipan World Resort

Laayug, who will be fighting out of Trench Tech Purebred Saipan MMA, holds a 5-win, 1-loss record inside the cage.

Trench Tech owner and promoter

 TRENCH TECH

IV: The Uproar and had seen action in Trench Warz VII: Kontra and Rites of Passage V: Rag-

ing Warriors as the main event.

The latter fight saw him win via unanimous decision against fellow up-and-comer Derrick "El Peligro" Rangamar. His latest fight was in Rites of Passage VII: Fist of Fury

See YOUNG on Page 26



Delos Reyes



Laayug